

THE TIMES Tomorrow

20 years on
The condition of America's black population two decades after Martin Luther King said: "I have a dream..."

Two weeks off
Friday page reports on what children really think of the holidays their parents choose.

Winning ways
The image that means President Reagan will win a second term in 1984.

Losing touch
Are Canada's Liberals preparing to dump Prime Minister Trudeau?

Home thoughts...
How the Leicester Building Society discovered marketing with a capital "M".

...from abroad
The New Zealand tourists face England in the fourth Test; the European Swimming Championships in Rome.

Kidnappers kill leading protester

The owner of the Argentine magazine *Quidam*, Señor Guillermo Patrón, a leading human rights protester, was kidnapped here yesterday and later found dead, unofficial sources said. An underground group, "Free Argentina", claimed responsibility.

Way clear for nuclear sell-off

The way is clear for the privatisation of British Nuclear Fuels, according to Mr. Con Alday, chairman of the state-owned nuclear waste reprocessing and fuel enrichment company, which yesterday announced a £20m profit increase to £54.6m.

Coal warning

Sir Norman Siddall has warned Mr Ian MacGregor, his successor as coal board chairman, not to risk conflict with the miners by accelerating the industry's rundown.

Turks' poll limit

Only three parties can contest the Turkish election in November, after 14 others were excluded by the military regime of President Evren.

Mayfair sale

BTR, the engineering conglomerate which took over the Thomas Tilling group two months ago, is selling Tilling's Mayfair headquarters, Crews House. It is said to want £50m.

Polish release

Mr Wladyslaw Haredek, an underground leader of Solidarity who surrendered to the Polish police, was released after being questioned.

Aquino inquiry

President Marcos of the Philippines has announced that a special commission will investigate the assassination of Benigno Aquino, the opposition leader shot dead.

Scientific talks

The meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science are reported on page 4.

Essex prosper

Centuries by Gooch and McEwan put Essex in a commanding position against Worcestershire in the county championship yesterday. Report, page 18.

Letters: On the Soviet challenge

From Dr George Ignatieff, and Mr Brian Thomas, youth training from Mr Paul Lewis; Dartmoor spraying, from Lady Sayer.

Leading articles: Detention under Mental Health Act

Soviet-US grain deal; Convertible cars features, pages 8, 10.

The poverty lobby looks for more public money

Russia's eternal queue; An MP campaigns against cut; Spectrum: Profile of Sir Bernard Lovell.

The latest children's books from picture books to novels

from young people, and from humour to computer books, reviewed by Brian Alderson.

Our children's books editor, and his team of reviewers

Obituary, page 12. Mr PRC Elliott.

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Rush for A-plates brings record August car sales

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The fiercest price war ever experienced in the British car market has led to sales in the first two-thirds of this month reaching a record 304,000 - well in excess of the total for the whole of August last year.

Sales for the month, boosted by the introduction of the "A" prefix registration plate and an estimated £50m in dealer incentives, are on target to break through the 350,000 mark, much higher than the most optimistic manufacturers were predicting a few months ago.

British car workers - and the Government - can also take heart from a significant drop in imports in the first 20 days of August and a startling 11 per cent fall in the market share captured by cars produced elsewhere in the European Community compared to the same period last year.

The danger for the industry is that the August boom may be

sucking in sales from the rest of the year and as a result the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders continues to be cautious about increasing its 1983 forecast of 1.7m sales, still lower than the previous annual record 1.72m of 1979.

The 20-day figure of 303,943 is 21.2 per cent higher than the same period a year ago. Cars made in Britain captured 42.78 per cent while imports, which were running at nearly 60 per cent in August 1982, have been cut back to 57.22 per cent. The Japanese share remained relatively depressed at 10.55 per cent.

The number of cars in the 20-day figure originating from within the EEC was 119,814, giving a share of 39.42 per cent against 50.41 per cent a year ago. This includes cars from the European factories of Ford and General Motors.

Ford took 30.1 per cent of the 20-day market followed by BL

with 19.1 per cent, and Vauxhall/Opel with 14.4 per cent.

The continued success of Vauxhall, and in particular its Cavalier and Astra models, has given the company the prospect of achieving its goal of a 16 per cent market share two years earlier than planned, a spokesman said yesterday.

Vauxhall has sold 182,911 cars so far this year, 1,450 more than in the whole of 1982. Now it believes it will sell 250,000 in 1983, giving a market share of 15.5 per cent.

BL announced last night that it was raising the prices of most Austin Rover cars by 4.5 per cent from midnight on Sunday. The move, which follows Ford's decision to impose a 4.9 per cent rise from August 15, reflects manufacturers' growing unease at the impact on their finances of the cut-throat competition among dealers. Neither increase, however, will affect cars already in the showrooms.

Lowest exports this year put Britain in the red

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

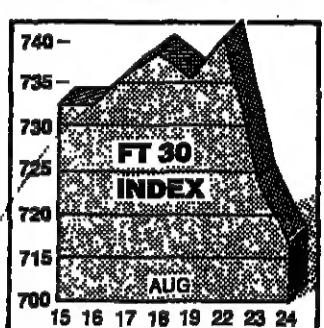
A sharp drop in exports to the lowest level since January pushed Britain's balance of payments unexpectedly into the red last month.

The fall in exports is bound to alarm the Government. With the consumer boom already showing signs of levelling off, ministers have been pinning their hopes on export-led growth to keep the economy moving ahead.

Officials said yesterday that it was too soon to judge whether the trend in exports was downwards this year. But the Department of Trade and Industry conceded that the volume of exports in the last three months was 3 per cent lower than the preceding three months.

Combined with a relatively modest rise in imports last month, the fall in exports left Britain's visible trade in deficit by £350m last month, compared with a revised surplus of £162m the previous month.

Including the estimated surplus of £250m on invisible trade, such as shipping and banking, the current account showed a deficit of £100m last month. That was about £250m worse than market expectations.



Social Research. The index of the top shares fell 7.4 to 716.6 for a two-day fall of 23.8.

The poor July trade figures were affected by a lower surplus on oil trade and erratic items such as precious stones and aircraft.

Imports of £15,300m in the latest three months were 1.5 per cent higher in volume than the three months before, but the Department of Trade and Industry said the underlying level was stable after the sharp rise early in the year.

However, the trend in exports is more worrying. The fall of 7.5 per cent to £4,730m last month was broadly-based, reflecting lower exports of semi-manufactured goods other than chemicals and lower oil and capital goods deliveries.

One bit of bright news for the Government was a prediction from Royal Bank of Scotland that it was heading for an unexpected £1,000m windfall from the North Sea.

Royal Bank said this year's Budget forecast of £9,000m in North Sea oil revenues was well short of the mark and the Government could now expect at least £9,000m.

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City Editor, page 15

Aviemore Centre for sale by Fraser

By Philip Robinson

The Aviemore Centre, Scotland's best known skiing resort, is for sale. The asking price is thought to be more than £5m.

The owner, the Fraser group, House of Fraser, which also owns Harrods, said last night that it was for sale as part of a major group review of assets.

Aviemore, the company said, was not profitable enough. A Fraser spokesman added: "It has suffered the same fate as many other leisure places. But there is no question of our closing the centre. We have received some interested inquiries."

At the same time, Professor Roland Smith has rejected a 60 per cent pay rise and the job as full time chairman of the House of Fraser. But, it was announced last night, he will remain chairman on a part-time basis at £50,000 a year.

The two-year contract he has rejected, would have included £80,000 a year pay, a pension scheme share option rights, a car, a chauffeur and a house in London. It was fiercely opposed by Lord Fraser, the company's biggest shareholder which has two representatives on the Fraser

board. The two sides have been locked in battle over whether to float off Harrods as a separate company.

Aviemore was opened in 1966 at a cost of £2.7m and was the idea of the late Lord Fraser of Allander, founder of the stores group and father of the Glasgow businessman, Sir Hugh Fraser, who was once chairman of his father's empire.

But Mr Ian Henderson, a spokesman for the centre said last night, was enjoying a boom year. "We have had a super summer following the best winter season for three years and the centre is bursting at the seams," he said.

Mr Paul Spicer, a Lornho director, said: "The sale comes as a complete surprise to me. They seem to be selling everything. It's appalling."

Professor Smith was appointed as Fraser chairman in an attempt to stave off a takeover bid from Lornho. Its £20m offer two years ago was vetoed by the Monopolies Commission, after which Lornho promised the Government it would not increase its influence over the company.



Street riot: A Pakistani policeman firing tear gas grenades at stone-throwing demonstrators in the Chakiwara district of Karachi.

Beith appeals for stronger Alliance

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Alan Beith, the Liberal Chief Whip, reacted to party in-fighting with a public assurance last night that party activists would "exercise the self-discipline which is needed to demonstrate that we are potentially the next Government".

But his statement, made on Channel 4's *News Comment*, was bound to be taken as an appeal for peace at the party's Conference, which starts on September 19.

Liberal and Social Democratic Party leaders are increasingly concerned that Liberal activists will erode Alliance credibility, built up at the general election with continued battles over policy and tactics.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, has let it be known that he would resign if the party assembly voted to take away his right of veto over the contents of the general election manifesto, and he has shown marked impatience with MPs and others who have criticized his management of the election campaign.

Mr Beith made his indirect appeal for unity when he said: "The voters are expecting a lot of us."

He said that Labour had excluded itself from the essential task of opposition to the Conservative Government by internal wrangling and total commitment to policies which would always be rejected by the voters.

Hattersley tipped for knife-edge victory

By Our Political Correspondent

Labour's deputy leadership contest, which is expected to end with a run-off between Mr Roy Hattersley and Mr Michael Meacher, could result in a "knife-edge" victory for Mr Hattersley, according to the latest issue of the *New Statesman*, published today.

An analysis by the Socialist Weekly concludes: "The deputy leadership election in October could be as close as in 1981, when Denis Healey beat Tony Benn by less than 1 per cent."

The *Sunday Times* suggested Mr Meacher could beat Mr Hattersley by 11.6 per cent, the

New Statesman produces a "best guess" of a Meacher defeat by a slender 3.2 per cent margin.

Last night Mr Meacher said he regarded both surveys as "absurdly spurious" because some large unions and many constituency parties were balloting members.

He did, however, comment on the *New Statesman* result: "That's a knife-edge. My best estimate is that the result will be between 40 per cent and 60 per cent - either way."

Interest is turning to the deputy leadership contest because of the

Continued on back page, col 4

Terror in the streets of Pakistan

From Michael Hamlyn, Karachi

With tears running down her cheeks from the effect of a riot gas shell going off in her back yard, a grey-haired woman in pale blue *shalwar* and *kameez* - the Pakistani national dress of baggy trousers and long shirt - took off her sari and walloped a policeman on the shoulder with it.

He seemed to be four times her size, twice as tall and twice as broad, and he shrugged her off. Other women in her family wailed and shouted. A young girl sobbed and showed off bloodstains on her flowered *kameez*.

A few minutes earlier the young woman had been prominent among a group of teenagers standing on the roof of the house throwing stones at the police in the street below.

Now they were all protesting the brutality of the grey-shirted police, who had rushed the house and dragged the young people out to put a stop to the stone-throwing.

The incident was sparked off by the arrest of the man of the house, a former minister in the provincial government of Sind, Mr Ali Ahmed Sumro.

He attempted to lead off a procession calling for an end to the martial law regime of General Zia ul-Haq.

He was hurriedly dumped into the back of a police pick-up, where he was sat upon by a number of plain clothes police. He was shouting the while: "Down with Zia, down with Zia."

The area is in the Lyari district of Karachi and is a stronghold of the Pakistan People's Party, to which the former Prime Minister, Mr Sumro, belonged. The signal a great many people hanging around on street corners had been waiting for.

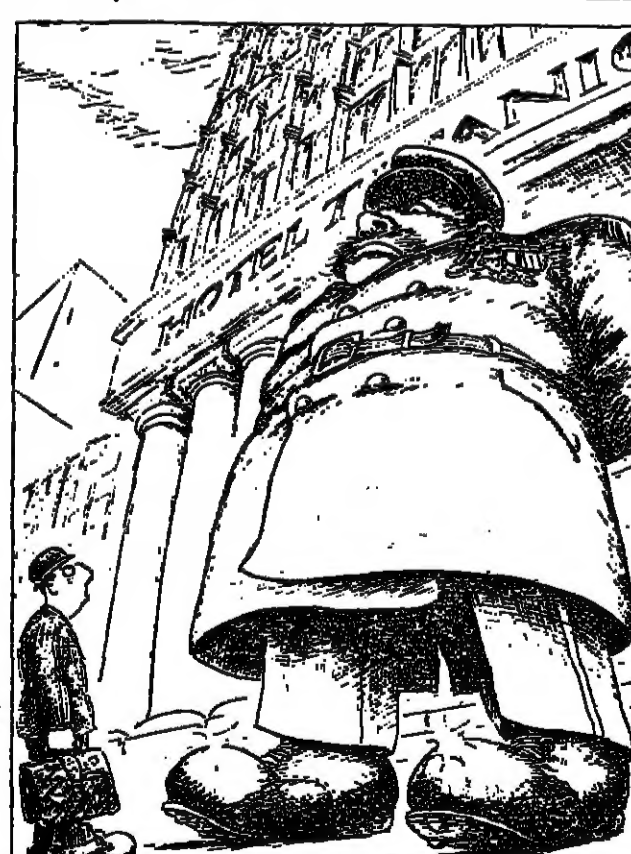
They picked up missiles from the crumbling surface of Kalri Road, and lobbed them at police. The police replied by throwing them back, and following up with tear gas.

The riot then followed the same pattern as a similar riot the day before in the Chakiwara district a few streets away. A game of hide and seek in the alleys and by-ways of the district ended with further arrests. Soon after dark both sides went home to supper.

The official death toll in Sind province yesterday was given as 21. Altogether, according to a government spokesman, 1,219 people have been arrested since the troubles began on Independence Day, August 14.

Elsewhere in the province small handfuls of men courted arrest on the tenth day of the campaign of civil disobedience called by the outlawed eight-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy. There were no reports of large scale violence, although two major

Continued on back page, col 6



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Sculpture blaze man dies

The man injured in the fire which destroyed the controversial tyre sculpture of Polanski died yesterday in the burns unit of Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton.

Mr James Gore-Graham, aged 37, suffered 90 per cent burns in the fire outside the Festival Hall in London on Sunday.

Mr Gore-Graham, a furniture designer, of Colet Gardens, west Kensington, had been on the critical list since the fire. Police wanted to interview him, but could not do so because of the seriousness of his injuries.

The 170 ft submarine, made of 6,000 used tyres by Mr David Mach, was badly damaged. It has been decided not to restore it.

Labour will 'lose city £1.6m'

Labour-controlled Liverpool City Council was accused yesterday by Liberal members of planning to cut more than £400,000 from social services to build more houses - even though 1,000 council properties are empty.

Liberals say that the Economic Development Committee has agreed to abandon plans to build a family care centre, a nursery and a adult training workshop for the mentally handicapped, which could lose the city £1.6m in government grant.

£6.7m target for left-wing paper

Trade union leaders yesterday agreed to seek the approval of Britain's labour movement next month for their campaign to start up a new daily newspaper of the left. They want to establish a high level committee to raise £6.7m for a successor to the defunct Daily Herald.

The committee would call on external financing as well as the labour movement's own reserves to start up a "quality tabloid" to offer an alternative to Fleet Street journals.

Police hunt for killers

More than fifty detectives are hunting a gang of muggers who killed one man and left another critically injured. The dead man was found in bushes in the Townhead district of Glasgow on Monday. He has not been identified.

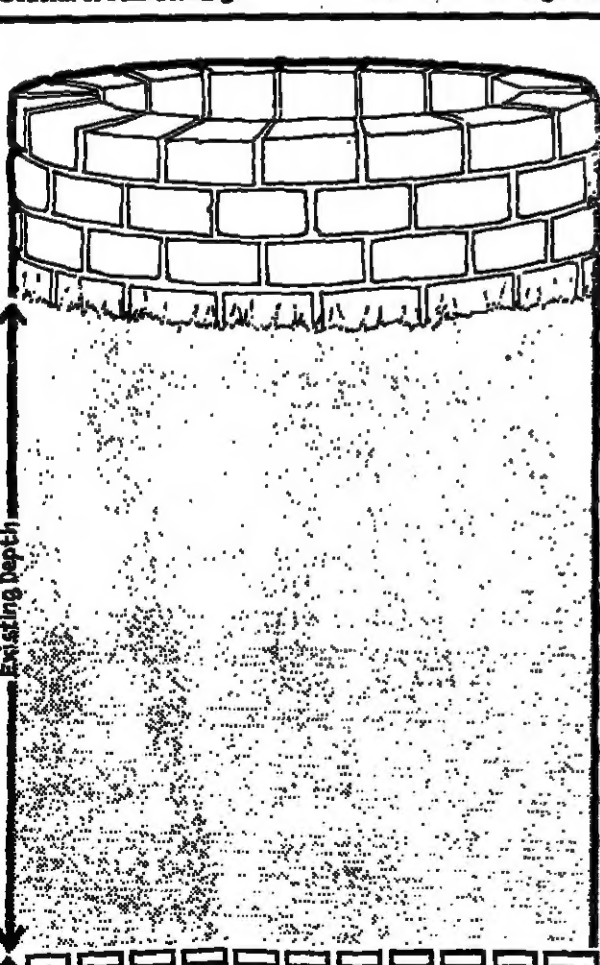
Mr William Coulter, aged 44, from Barmullock, Glasgow, was stable in the Southern General Hospital last night. Police believe both men were attacked within minutes and within yards of each other on Saturday.

Ford spare-part prices investigated

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Ford in Britain is to be investigated for alleged anti-competitive behaviour in its control over manufacture of spare body parts.

The company which recently launched legal action in a growing dispute over allegedly counterfeit and usually lower priced body panels and parts, was ordered to be investigated by Sir Gordon Borrie, director General of Fair Trading.



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Outgoing NCB chief warns against conflict with miners over too-rapid rundown

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Sir Norman Siddall, the National Coal Board's outgoing chairman, has warned his successor, Mr Ian MacGregor, not to risk a conflict with the miners by running down the industry too rapidly.

In a valedictory interview with *The Times* last night, he urged a continuation of the board's "softly softly" approach, which has reduced the industry's manpower by 10,000 this year as the management works towards a shutdown of 25 million tonnes of uneconomic capacity.

"I would say that to return the industry to profitability within three years is a fairly massive task," he said in his last week at the helm of Britain's biggest state industry.

Mr MacGregor, the British Steel Corporation chairman, has been appointed head of the coal industry until 1986 in a move popularly expected to herald widespread pit closures and radical reforms in the way the industry is run. He has had three informal sessions of talks with senior NCB people.

Sir Norman said last night: "I do not think he is the sort of man that would make a facile assumption that he can import his strategy from BSC to coal mining. The situation of the two industries is entirely different."

Telecom unions to increase action

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Telecommunication engineers will today increase industrial action aimed at preventing the link between the private Mercury system and the British Telecom network which is being encouraged by the Government.

Members of the Post Office Engineering Union (POEU), operating mainly in the City, have been instructed from 8 am today to "black" all repair and maintenance work on high speed data transmission facilities used by Barclays Bank, British Petroleum and Cable and Wireless, which are the principal shareholders in the £100m Mercury venture.

Last night union officials were reluctant to discuss the likelihood of the new action being in contravention of employment legislation covering secondary action.

POEU, which since June has had a left-led executive, is apparently prepared to continue the action until there is a challenge under law by any of the companies affected. The

He discounted the prospect of an early strike against Mr MacGregor. He said: "There has got to be quite a combination of factors put together to get an all-out strike in the coal industry. Very often in that situation it might be something quite unexpected that coalesces the workforce."

The trigger could come from NCB moves to break up national bargaining with the National Union of Mineworkers, whose claim for substantial increases will be formally submitted in a month.

"To go further with local bargaining than we have done at present might be the one thing that would coalesce the workforce," Sir Norman said.

The miners meet the NCB to hear their answer to a "substantial" claim on September 27 and the union fears Mr MacGregor will try to bring to the coal industry his successful strategy at British Steel of abolishing the annual national wage round in favour of local productivity-based negotiations.

NCB managers recognize that, although a typical collier these days is a car-owning, mortgage-paying professional, he could still be moved to strike by a government inspired campaign to replace national

pay bargaining with local negotiations related to higher output.

Sir Norman said: "In spite of the fact that the workforce has changed considerably, the great protection they have is the national basic wage." Its removal would cause a crisis particularly if it was lumped together with other management demands.

A full frontal attack based on wages and pit closures could go horribly wrong, Sir Norman believes.

"One of the difficulties about having a strike in the industry is that they are very good at it," he admitted. "It would be about all the rest and Arthur Scargill would be able to bring out all his anti-Tebbit political ideas and one thing and another."

The outcome of such a strike would depend entirely on the resolution of our political masters, and what the conclusion is likely to be."

Sir Norman has privately argued against the Cabinet picking a strike with the miners just for a show of strength and believes it will not happen during the MacGregor reign.

But he adds: "That does not mean to say it is not true. But you cannot starve people out in a strike."

Strike halts work on destroyer

Work on the new Royal Navy destroyer came to a standstill yesterday when Tyndesside shipyard workers walked out in protest at continuing job losses in their industry.

About 270 semi-skilled men at Swan Hunter's Neptune yard at Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne downed tools over the latest wave of job losses, which they say have left them overworked. The strike spread quickly to 1,400 craftsmen who refused to work normally and later walked out after being told they would not be paid.

Work halted at the yard, where the Navy's latest Type 42 destroyer, the York, is being fitted out. Work on a merchant ship and a cable vessel was also stopped.

Swan Hunter management said later that the men had ignored grievance procedures by walking out without notice.

Swan has sought 510 redundancies in the first phase of British Shipbuilders' threatened programme of 9,000 redundancies nationwide. The Tyndesside yard has almost 900 workers for redundancy and 450 left last week. About 100 went from the Neptune yard and complaints began when the remaining workers reported for work on Monday.

Mr Denis Shadbolt, Swan's director of Personnel and Industrial Relations, said: "Where we have reduced we have got to make up the shortfall by greater efficiency. The number of employees is not an issue for negotiation."

The dispute could not have come at a more critical time for Swan Hunter. The company is in the running for at least one of two destroyer orders expected to be announced later this year. British Shipbuilders will be watching to see whether the dispute spreads to other yards. The strikers, meanwhile, will meet this morning to decide their next move.

Strikers at the Highland Fabricators off platform yard at Nigg on the Cromarty Firth plan a mass picket on Monday, when the management hopes to resume work.

All but 400 of the 2,000 workers dismissed last week have been offered reinstatement; the unions want everyone taken back. The trouble broke out over the withdrawal of the orange juice for working in hot conditions, but the unions have accused the management of using the dispute to cut its workforce.

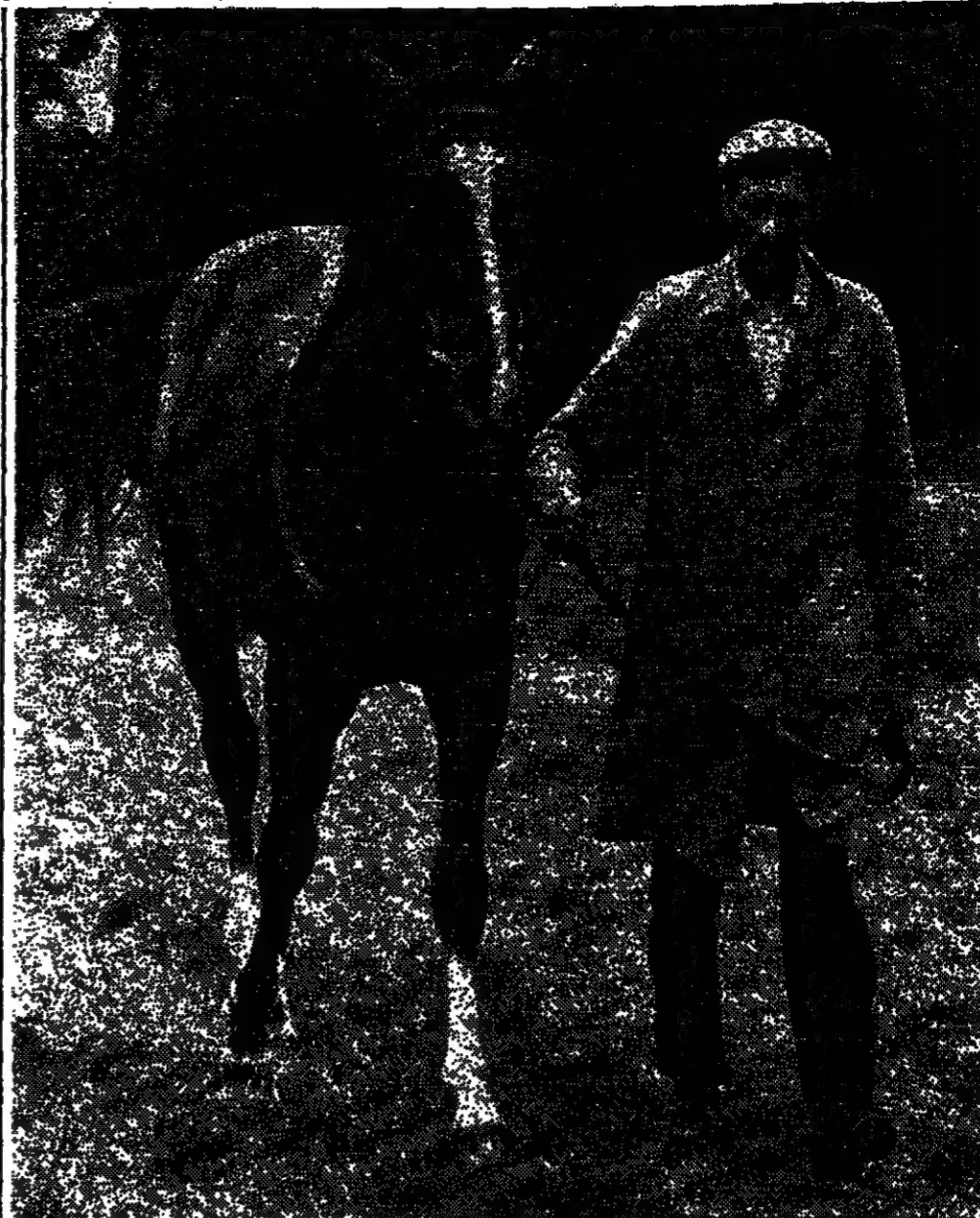
The Redfern National glassworks in York, which lost £1m in the first half of this year, is to close in December, with the loss of 225 jobs. Production will be concentrated on the company's other plants at Barnsley.

A spokesman said yesterday: "Making a profit was not our aim, but obviously we are not disappointed. This is a fast-growing firm and we invested in it with a view to encouraging it to Scotland."

There are already six semiconductor manufacturers in Scotland, but IMP's plans to build custom circuits would be an important and highly advanced addition to Scotland's growing electronics industry.

A government-backed scheme taking unemployed Scottish school-leavers into computer training was launched yesterday.

Forty young people have been taken on by a Glasgow computer firm, Microcom, which will provide the one-year course in operating microcomputers. A spokesman said businesses in Scotland desperately needed micro-computer operators, and predicted the course could eventually turn out 400 "graduates" each year.



Good temperament of the £7m colt

The most expensive yearling in the world (above with stable lad) is showing no signs of a temperament to match his £7m price tag as he settles in to stables in Sussex, his trainer, Mr John Dunlop, said yesterday.

The chestnut colt, sired by Northern Dancer out of American mare My Bupers, was bought by an Arab oil millionaire Sheikh Mohammed Al-Maktoum, of Dubai, at the Keeneland sales in Kentucky last month.

He arrived at Mr Dunlop's Arundel

stables last Thursday and has started his training programme by being exercised in a paddock. Although he has not been officially named, he is called "Dancer" by stable staff.

Mr Dunlop said: "The colt has really pleased everybody with his temperament. He will get no special treatment."

No special security arrangements have been made for the colt. "It has always been

Asbestos products to go in 5 years

By John Withrow

The manufacture of asbestos products is likely to disappear in Britain over the next five years as a result of stricter controls, industry sources said yesterday.

But workers removing or dealing with asbestos already in buildings face a health hazard for decades from the substance which is now widely recognized as a carcinogenic agent.

The decision on Tuesday by the Health and Safety Commission to recommend tighter controls on the use and importation of asbestos was generally welcomed yesterday, although pressure groups said it did not go far enough and called for a complete ban.

Mr Harrie Hardie, a director at Turner & Newell, the country's leading manufacturer of asbestos products, said he expected most asbestos products to be replaced within five years, with the possible exception of brake linings and high

technology space programme products.

He added that the new restrictions, which will not come into force for another year, were already being implemented in most workplaces, although the company would have difficulty in reducing the amount of asbestos in the air in textile manufacture.

A spokesman for the Asbestos Information Centre, which represents the industry, said that about £40m had been spent on research into alternatives to asbestos and that British regulations were twice as stringent as those in Europe.

Professor Donald Acheson, who is shortly to become the Government's chief medical officer, said the new controls were reasonable.

He thought that the risks of disease caused by exposure to asbestos had been greatly reduced by the tighter controls

Bomb link with Angry Brigade

The police were last night almost certain that the Angry Brigade was responsible for the bombing last Saturday night of the American Express office in the City of London.

They were convinced by details of the composition of the device, which damaged windows of the office in Cannon Street, given in a letter received by the Press Association yesterday.

Det Insp Tony Davies, who is leading the hunt for the bombers, said the details "were very similar to the description of the device but I am not in a position to say whether they are identical."

"However, I am satisfied that whoever sent the letter was responsible for planning the device and I have no reason to think otherwise than it is the Angry Brigade."

The message on the letter, printed in uneven block capitals, was signed "Captain Scarlet, Angry Brigade." The envelope carried a London postmark apparently SW1, and was posted first class at 7.15 pm on Tuesday. As well as giving details of the bomb it bore a postscript: "PS We don't drive Range-Rovers."

This is probably a reference to a police appeal for the driver of a Range-Rover or similar vehicle seen near the scene to come forward. The driver has already been seen by the police and eliminated from their inquiries.

There have been three other bombings within the last year for which the Angry Brigade has claimed responsibility.

A Department of Health and Social Security office in Manchester was damaged last September. Two months later the group claimed responsibility for an explosion outside a prison officers' training college in Wakefield West Yorkshire, and in January a parcel bomb was delivered to the Yorkshire area Conservative Party.

Those incidents were the first time since early 1970s that the Angry Brigade had been active. The original Angry Brigade was a revolutionary anarchist group which carried out a series of bombings between 1968 and 1971.

During the hearing, Mr Leonard Hoffman QC, for the Sun, conceded that Hindley held the copyright in her 22,000-word statement which was written in 1978. But he said that the paper was entitled to publish the statement as part of its "fair dealings" of a criticism of a literary work. The newspaper claimed that the statement was and relevant to current events.

Overseas selling prices

A flat premium under the Overseas Investment Insurance scheme - of 1 per cent a year of the initial sum invested, plus 0.26 per cent of anything subsequently invested from profits - will be replaced by a cheaper variable rate system.

According to underwriters' assessments of particular markets, it is almost certain to become an all-inclusive 0.7 to 1 per cent premium.

This will be a good incentive to industrialists, given that the maximum liability of the Export Credits Guarantee Department, which runs the scheme, currently stands at £155m.

RUC seeks wife of most wanted man

From Richard Ford

Detectives in Northern Ireland want to question the wife of Dominic McGlinchey, Ireland's most wanted man, in connection with the murder of police constable at a security checkpoint in co Tyrone last May.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary also believes that Mrs Mary McGlinchey, a mother of two in her mid-twenties, may be able to help them identify the masked woman who fired a volley of shots over the coffin of Gerard Mallon last week.

Mallon, an Irish National Liberation Army gunman, died in an ambush that went wrong at Dungannon, co Tyrone, earlier this month and McGlinchey, aged 29, sent a wreath to his "comrade's" funeral.

Mrs McGlinchey comes from a staunchly republican family. Toome, south Londonderry, and married her husband eight years ago. The police believe that she is living in the Irish Republic.

McGlinchey, known as the "Mad Dog", operated in a Provisional IRA unit led by Francis Hughes, a dead hunger striker, before he joined the INLA. He is believed to organize its activities in border areas.

Police constable Colin Carson died in Coolstown, co Tyrone, when someone in a van opened fire on a security checkpoint outside the town's police station. The abandoned vehicle was later found with women's clothing inside.

More family pressure was exerted on the informer Kirkpatrick yesterday in an attempt to persuade him to retract statements implicating 18 people in terrorist activities and ensure the safe release of his wife, Elizabeth, who is being held by the INLA.

Her father, Mr Henry Meenan, from Ballymurphy, west Belfast, said: "It's all up to him now when his wife returns safe and sound. I appeal to him on behalf of me and her mother to change his mind and let his wife get home to us right away."

Mr Meenan's appeal follows similar statements from Kirkpatrick's mother, father and stepfather.

Their pleas have increased since his stepfather and half-sister were freed by the police from INLA captivity last week. The INLA lifted the "exclusion" deadline on his wife so that he could have more time to decide what action to take.

In Londonderry the IRA last night claimed responsibility for the murder of a Protestant businessman, aged 50, who was shot dead yesterday at his city centre office in what the police believe may have been an attempted armed robbery.

Sun loses appeal over Hindley

The Sun newspaper failed yesterday in its attempt to have lifted the ban on publishing extracts of statements made in support of an application for parole by Myra Hindley, who was jailed for life in 1966 for her part in the moors murders.

Two judges in the Court of Appeal dismissed the application by News Group Newspapers, the publishers against the High Court ban, won on Tuesday by Hindley who claimed breach of her copyright and confidence.

Justice Griffiths said that he could think of nothing more damaging to the parole system than for prisoners to fear that their private statements would be leaked to the press.

Lord Justice Kerr said that it was a "plain case of a flagrant infringement of copyright", unless the Sun could prove it was a so-called "fair dealing" of the confidential documents. That would be a matter for the full trial of Hindley's copyright action against the Sun, the judge.

The judges ordered that the publicity ban, originally ordered to apply until Friday, must now run until the main trial of Hindley's actions, which might not be for several weeks.

During the hearing, Mr Leonard Hoffman QC, for the Sun, conceded that Hindley held the copyright in her 22,000-word statement which was written in 1978. But he said that the paper was entitled to publish the statement as part of its "fair dealings" of a criticism of a literary work. The newspaper claimed that the statement was and relevant to current events.

Overseas selling prices

A flat premium under the Overseas Investment Insurance scheme - of 1 per cent a year of the initial sum invested, plus 0.26 per cent of anything subsequently invested from profits - will be replaced by a cheaper variable rate system.

According to underwriters' assessments of particular markets, it is almost certain to become an all-inclusive 0.7 to 1 per cent premium.

This will be a good incentive to industrialists, given that the maximum liability of the Export Credits Guarantee Department, which runs the scheme, currently stands at £155m.

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مكتبة الأمل

Police hunting men who assaulted boy lack vital computer software

Sussex police hunting for the three men who sexually assaulted a six-year-old boy in Brighton are having to sift through thousands of filing cards by hand because they do not have the right software to do it by computer.

The Sussex force has one of the most advanced computer systems in the country, but it does not have the programs needed for cross-referencing the information from the 300 telephone calls a day which it is receiving.

Details are being stored on filing cards in metal trays. A police spokesman said yesterday: "We have got a paper mountain of information in there but we have not got the software package and program that will run this sort of information."

The police yesterday rejected suggestions that their inquiries are faltering.

Det Chief Insp Peter Whitehouse, who is heading the investigation, praised the cooperation of the press, the public and other police forces. "I am absolutely confident that we are going to catch them. I am convinced that somewhere in the system is information which is going to lead us to these three men," he said.

Criticism that failure to use computers to collate information is a considerable flaw in police handling of big incidents was made recently in a report by the Chief Inspector of Constabulary into the West Yorkshire police's handling of

By David Nicholson-Lord

the "Yorkshire Ripper" case. Although there have been a number of initiatives designed to speed up the use of computers, the only active use in cases like that in Brighton has been in a pilot study carried out in Essex. Known as Major Incident Room Index and Action Management (Miriam), it is aimed at the sort of incident now being handled in Brighton.

Mr Whitehouse said that although computerization of the inquiry had been considered, "with about 2,500 telephone messages logged... it is going to take an awful lot of time to put them on the computer."

The police said that even if a computer retrieval system were available, it would have to be run in tandem with the present manual system.

The Home Office is monitoring the progress of the Brighton inquiry, which is believed to be the biggest in the Sussex force's history. Fifty officers on the case have followed up 900 of the calls so far received, referred another 100 to other forces and discarded about 1,500.

The police yesterday made a new appeal to two men aged between 50 and 60 seen talking to the assaulted boy and his twin brother shortly before he was abducted 12 days ago. The men, who are thought to live locally, are being asked to come forward as material witnesses.

Tap recordings of an anonymous telephone caller with a northern accent, who said that he was homosexual and knew

one of the attackers but was terrified to come forward, are being sent to police forces in the north of England.

The fact that the man has not come forward, despite repeated appeals, has led officers in charge of the investigation to conclude that he may have been a hoaxer.

Interpol have so far failed to identify a brown car with German number plates seen near where the boy was kidnapped.

A couple heard "screams of fear" from the open ground pinpointed as the likely scene of the attack on the boy but did not notify police until four days later, it was disclosed yesterday.

The couple, who have declined to be named, live next to Beacon Hill, the area of open ground used by joggers and horse riders, and where a test-shirt thought to belong to the boy was spotted.

The police said that they heard the screams at about 9.30pm on the evening of the attack. The wife looked out of a window and saw several people and a child walking along a footpath further up the hill.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, has asked for a report from the Metropolitan Police on the activities of the Paedophile Information Exchange before considering demands that he ban the organisation.

The report will be separate from the files submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions which involve consideration of the prosecution of individuals.

Legionnaire disease man dies

A man aged 23 who was a kidney transplant patient, has died from legionnaire's disease and three other cases of the disease have been confirmed among patients at John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. A fifth case is suspected.

Laboratory staff are checking the water supply at the hospital, which was opened in 1979. There was an outbreak of the disease there two years ago. Mr John Kurtz, consultant biologist at the hospital, said he believed all the cases were isolated incidents and that the water system was not to blame. A hospital spokesman said the water supply is regularly inspected but confirmed that checks were being increased. Legionnaire's disease, a condition with some similarities to pneumonia, is often contracted through bacteria in water supplies.

Murder attempt charges fail

A man was cleared yesterday of attempting to murder three people. Christopher Allen, aged 29, unemployed, of no fixed address, was sent in custody from Clerkenwell magistrates' court for trial on three charges of possessing a knife.

No evidence was offered on charges that he attempted to murder Mr Alfredo Albano, aged 61, Mrs Phyllis Waldren, aged 62, and Mrs Gloria Innis, aged 42, who were stabbed on London streets.

Biggest safety campaign opens

Britain's biggest home safety campaign, costing £100,000 and funded by the Manpower Services Commission, was opened in Gloucester yesterday by Mr David Clayer, the Health Education Council's director general.

Gloucestershire has been chosen for an experiment which may lead to a national drive to reduce home accidents.

Microcomputer shops in North

A national network of 12 high street microcomputer shops is to be set up by next spring by the Cheshire-based publishing group Europress, at the cost of £1m.

The Greater Manchester area has been chosen for the first three, which will be opened within the next two weeks.

Students fined

Two students, Helena Cunningham, aged 21, from Leeds, and Ian Wilson, aged 23, from Glasgow, were each fined £20 by Glasgow magistrates yesterday after being convicted of obstructing the Prime Minister's car in Harrogate in May.

Gypsy grant

City councillors have voted to give gypsies £500 to help to finance a two-day festival in October at Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, where factory owners have been withholding rates in protest over illegal camping on industrial estates.

Miner injured

Paul Lynam, aged 18, a miner, of Linby, Nottinghamshire, was critically ill with internal injuries after being trapped yesterday in a conveyor belt on an underground roadway at Babington Colliery, Nottingham.

Surfing along on the crest of a wave



Making waves: A competitor in the biggest surfing event in Europe, the Foster's Draught EuroPro, which began at Fistral Beach, Newquay, Cornwall, on Tuesday, goes through his paces. Forty-eight leading international professionals are competing in the world-class event for £20,000 (£13,330) prize money. The contest, which ends on Sunday, was won last year by Richard Cram, from Australia. (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Holidays in hotels most popular with children

The ideal holiday for children is a "posh" hotel abroad where they can stay up late, according to a survey conducted by MORI for the travel firm, Thomas Cook, published yesterday.

It finds that children no longer want the traditional bucket and spade holiday by the seaside, self catering or camping holidays.

Only eight per cent of the 509 children aged between eight and 12 interviewed wanted to go on holiday in Britain. The favourite spot was North America, which won the approval of half the children.

But there were reservations about foreign food. Fish and chips, ice cream and hamburgers were the favourite foods of nine out of ten.

The children's ideas of holiday fun were simple. Top of the list was staying up late, with swimming in a pool a close second. Sun bathing and shopping were considered the most boring activities.

Parents were considered vital ingredients of a good holiday by 77 per cent of the youngsters. A boy aged eight said: "My dad's different... he mucks about and doesn't get as cross and if he does he just sort of taps you."

"Perhaps its time parents questioned the time-honoured theory that young children are not 'ready' for a holiday abroad, and are happier with what they know," Thomas Cook's marketing director, Mr Andrew Barrett, said.

Shoplifters' treatment defended

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Rejecting a suggestion that alleged shoplifters needed to be dealt with more humanely, a Home Office committee said yesterday that no evidence had emerged to suggest that innocent people were being convicted.

"We would accept that people who are sick, under stress or genuinely forgetful sometimes make mistakes when they are shopping," the committee's report said.

Cases in which the evidence concerning the intention to steal was inconclusive were filtered out primarily when the police decided whether to prosecute, the committee reported.

"A court cannot convict on a shoplifting charge unless it is satisfied beyond reasonable

doubt that the goods were taken dishonestly rather than by inadvertence or forgetfulness," it added.

The suggestion dismissed by the committee advocated the introduction of a preliminary procedure before a court hearing, especially where the person concerned was ill or elderly and had no previous convictions.

In 1981 the police issued 47,443 cautions in shoplifting cases while 75,833 offenders were found guilty of the offence in magistrates' and crown courts.

Shoplifting and Theft by Shop Staff - A review by the Home Office Standing Committee on Crime Prevention 1983. (Stationery Office, £2.75).

● A Southampton crown court judge has criticized a senior Hampshire policeman for dropping a shoplifting case because he said it would cost too much.

After being told that Mr Kenneth Boothby, assistant chief constable of Hampshire would be offering no evidence against a man accused of shoplifting, Judge Ian Starforth Hill said that he would be sending Mr Boothby a strongly worded letter expressing his anger that the case had been allowed to get to crown court before being dropped.

Mr Stephen Parish, for the prosecution, said that Mr Boothby had thought the case would be a waste of public money. The alleged theft involved a packet of batteries.

Open challenge by Ford

Ford is launching its first convertible European car for more than 20 years, to exploit the new popularity of open-top motoring, exemplified by the success of Volkswagen's Golf Convertible (our Motoring Correspondent writes).

The Escort Cabriolet (above) based on Europe's best-selling car, is already in production and will be shown at the Frankfurt Motor Show, opening on September 14. It will be available with 1.3, 1.6 or 105bhp fuel injection engine. Prices are yet to be decided.

The Cabriolet is being assembled by Karmann, the German specialist coach-builders who also handle the Golf Convertible, which, since its launch in 1979, has achieved the status of a "cult" car, always in short supply although costing up to £2,000 more than closed versions.

Only 20,000 Golf Convertibles are made each year. It has been sold out in Britain for nearly a month and new supplies are not expected until the end of September.

Leading article, page 11

Lucan's tenant's to be sued for unpaid rent

Irish tenants of Lord Lucan who owe him or his estate an estimated £100,000 rent, unpaid since he vanished in 1974, are to be sued for the money.

Mr Michael Egan, a solicitor and agent for the Lucan family in Ireland, said that Courts, the bankers, had received permission from the High Court in London to deal with the affairs of the missing peer.

The decision means that about 1,200 householders in Castlebar, Co Mayo, may now be brought to court.

Cancer mother dies in Australia

Mrs Sheryl Skirton, who refused treatment for cancer to save her unborn child, died in Melbourne, Australia, yesterday. Mrs Skirton, aged 35, a nurse, from Whitechurch, Bristol, gave birth to a boy weighing 2lb 10oz on an aircraft at Melbourne Airport on August 8 while on her way to see her parents.

Her husband Chris, aged 38, is expected to return to his job as a sales supervisor for a soft drinks firm.



David Claxton with his puppet Roland Rat

Big time beckons Roland Rat

By David Hewson

TV-am's first and only successful puppet set his masters a familiar show business riddle yesterday: Will Roland Rat quit for the big time?

Mr David Claxton, the actor who introduced the rodent that pulled in the audience who were not attracted by Anna Ford and her fellow stars, has received several offers to move his manager to other areas of the ITV network.

"There are lots of offers around and at the moment I have yet to discuss the future with TV-am," he said. "We are talking about a Roland Rat Christmas Special to be filmed in Switzerland, but we need to recruit more people to expand. I am just a one-man show at the moment," he said.

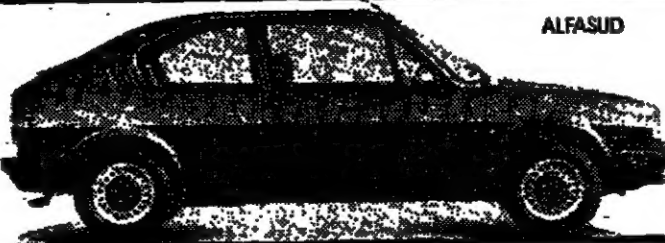
Mr Claxton, aged 30, writes the scripts, operates the 4ft rodent and provides the voices for both the lead character and his dim-witted companion, Kevin the Gosh. Staff shortages have prevented the appearance of Mr Claxton's third creation, Erol the Hamster.

Roland evolved last Easter when TV-am was still under its former management, Miss Ann Wood, the children's editor, wanted a puppet character to introduce a cartoon segment, and Mr Claxton passed the audition.

The rodent's summer holiday cartoon segment, and his travelling feature, *Rat on the Road*, have narrowed the gap between TV-am and its BBC rival.



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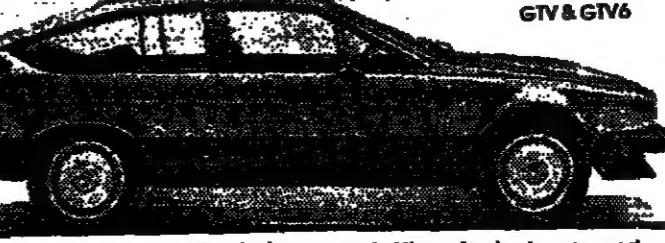
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BRITISH ASSOCIATION



'Work' will transform schooling

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

The new subject called "work", now being taught in schools, could completely change the nature of state schooling by pushing yet more academic education out of state schools into the independent sector, according to Professor Samuel Eggleston, head of the education department at Keele University.

Speaking yesterday to the education section, he said that young people seemed to enjoy work experience schemes.

"Evidence is available in most reports that they are seen to be interesting and certainly less boring than other aspects of school", Professor Eggleston, an expert on the subject, said.

"Attendance during work experience programmes often runs at a consistently higher level than participation in 'normal' school."

There was also evidence that well planned work experience gave young people a better chance of obtaining a job.

● Encountering a comet ● Computers made human ● Hattersley on equality

Earthquakes a risk in UK geologist says

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Britain is more vulnerable to earthquakes than most scientists recognize, according to Dr R. Muir Wood, a senior geologist with Principia Mechanical, consultant engineers, of London.

His assertion was made at a discussion on the impact of natural disasters, volcanic and seismic, on climate and on living things. His conclusions are based on the results of a three-year research programme undertaken, he claims for the first time, into the complete record of historical evidence of earthquakes in Britain.

He had sifted 8,000 pages of archive material to identify 1,000 earthquakes, the earliest in 600 AD. His research revealed many previously unknown earthquakes.

He says that British earthquakes have ruined cathedrals, churches and numerous houses as well as producing fatalities. While Scotland had had many small tremors and had attracted the attention of seismologists, the largest and most damaging earthquakes had been in southern Britain. For example, Swansea, lying on an active fault-bed passing from Pembrokeshire to Hereford, had been

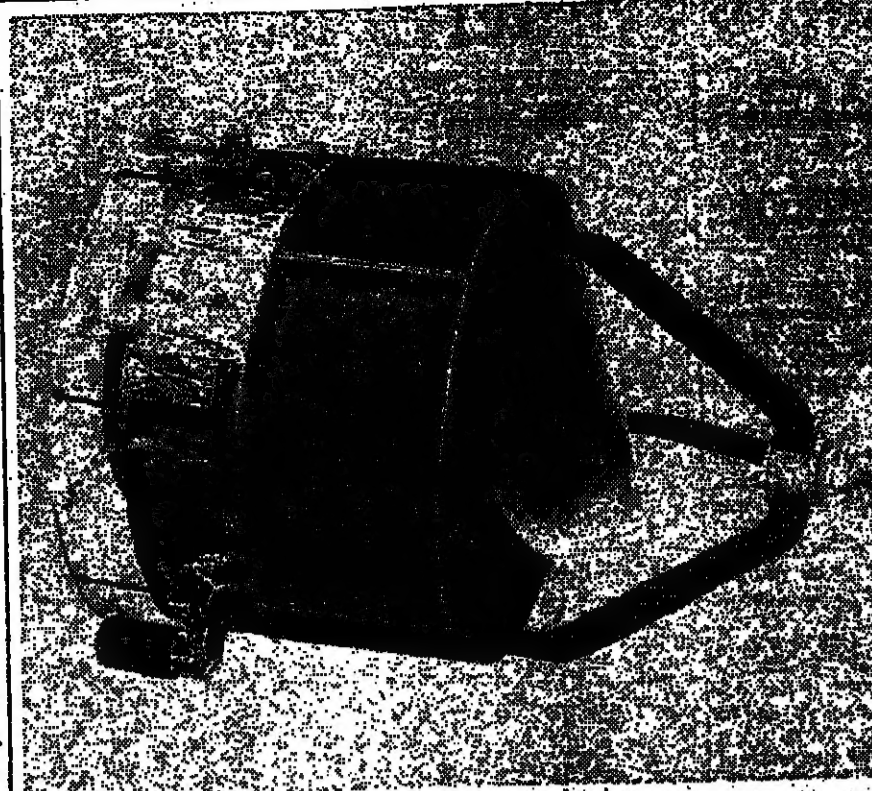
damaged severely four times since 1700.

But the biggest earthquake belt, and one that stretches into Kent, was seismically active zone passing from Cologne through Belgium and across the Channel, finishing in the London basin.

An examination of the activity along that fault showed, for instance, that in 1382 earthquake damage extended from Flanders to Canterbury, where the cathedral bell tower was demolished. In 1580, an earthquake around the Strait of Dover killed people as far away as London and Belgium.

Despite two small damaging earthquakes in London in 1750, and the great Colchester earthquake that shattered houses and churches in several villages in 1884, there had been no repetition of such considerable events.

But Dr Muir Wood said that Britain needed to take its earthquakes more seriously. "The British still believe earthquakes are about as English as pizza and, unlike the Germans or French, have no national network of monitoring stations" he said.



Space explorer: An artist's impression (left) of the Giotto Satellite which will photograph the nucleus of Halley's Comet in 1986 and gather information on the comet's coma region and tail. Right: Mr Steve Kellock with Giotto's British component, the Johnstone plasma analyzer, for which he is experiment manager (Photograph: John Voss).

The human face of talking computers

Talking computers will soon have human faces as well as human speech. The stimulus comes from medical research to help people with impaired speech and hearing.

Introducing the topic, Professor M. P. Haggard, director of the Medical Research Council's Institute of Hearing Research at Nottingham University, gave preliminary findings of a study into the response of drivers of the new Austin Maestro, which is equipped to "talk" to its driver.

Professor Haggard said that the Maestro gave a unique opportunity to test what people found to be an acceptable quality of synthetic speech.

In fact, he suggested, having

to learn a computer, dialect might even influence British insularity by encouraging the learning of a second language.

Computers with a human face as well as human voices were also described by Dr Michael Brooke, of Lancaster University, in a demonstration of computer graphics.

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Computers with a human face as well as human voices were also described by Dr Michael Brooke, of Lancaster University, in a demonstration of computer graphics.

Halley's comet to be 'met' in space

By Our Science Editor

Preparations are at an advanced stage for a scientific satellite which will make a close encounter with Halley's Comet in three years' time. The project, called the Giotto experiment, is to photograph the nucleus of the body, and take measurements of the particles of dust which boil off to form the comet's scimitar-shaped tail.

Describing the special preparations for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, Dr A. D. Johnston, of the Mullard Space Science Laboratory of University College, London, said that there were two separate tails pointing in slightly different directions. They could only be easily distinguished when seen from the comet's angle. Each tail was produced by material released from the nucleus and dragged away from the comet by external forces.

To understand the formation of a tail, scientists had to establish what the material was, and what the forces were which moved it away from the nucleus, and how it was made visible to us on Earth.

One of the tails was made of dust particles formed of tiny pieces of solid mineral ranging in size from less than a micron (millionth of a millimetre) to several millimetres and weighing, at most, a few tenths of a gram.

The second tail, the one which jettisons astronomers' imaginations, was formed by escaping gas. The gas molecules appear to be much higher velocities than the dust particles and were, therefore, scarcely affected by the radiation pressure which influenced the shape of the dust particles. It appeared as if the tails were being blown away from the comet by a wind from the sun with a speed of more than 500 km a second.

The solar wind was a plasma, an electrical gas. All particles in it were electrically charged, half of them with a positive charge, and half with a negative charge. The comet's gas was also a plasma.

The scientists wanted to measure what happened when two very different plasmas, the solar wind and cometary gas, met.

Many chemical reactions were believed to take place, some under the influence of sunlight to make the cometary gas into a complex mixture. But, since the cometary mixture did not contain any solid material in the solid state, one of Giotto's tasks was to try to find the nearest molecules from which the atoms and molecules had come.

Deep crisis for Dutch spending

By Our Technology Correspondent

The Dutch welfare state, probably the most generous in the world, is in deep crisis, according to a professor of economics from Amsterdam University.

Professor Michael Ellman described Dutch experience to the association's economic section as a particular dramatic example of the more widespread "crisis of the welfare state" which was affecting many Western countries.

Holland had developed its welfare programme during the economic boom of the 1950s and 1960s, with strong support from the Christian Democrats and the Labour movement.

The financial insecurity of a market economy had been abolished, and a sudden shock as a result of unemployment had no adverse effect on income, he said.

Only a few per cent of the population lived in poverty in 1979, according to the Dutch definition, compared with Britain's 20 per cent.

Dutch unemployment was soaring, it had overtaken the British level in April.

Hattersley formula for equality

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

Mr Roy Hattersley elaborated yesterday on what is becoming the favourite theme of his campaign for the Labour Party, leadership - equality of outcome rather than equality of opportunity.

Speaking to the education section on "Challenge of the Eighties: the Pursuit of Equality", Mr Hattersley called for a campaign on all fronts to "compensate the underprivileged and to limit the ability of the rich and powerful to exploit their riches and power."

He attacked the idea that "something called equality of opportunity could be created without equality itself. People who believed that 'achievement' race which was inevitably won by the strong."

Relief in equality of opportunity is expressed most often in education, Mr Hattersley said. It "has been developed into the myth that education can in itself be an instrument of liberation."

"That is tragically untrue," he continued. "Without changes in the structure of society and



Mr Hattersley said the distribution of wealth education can do little or nothing to alter our class pattern.

There must be action to change the social factors giving the middle classes a head start. Mr Hattersley said. "Without attempting to organize equality of outcome there can be no social mobility."

Mr Hattersley claimed that a practical programme for achieving equality of outcome would not be difficult to construct.

New hormones that could trigger a revolution

By Clive Cookson

Genetic engineering will have a revolutionary impact within a few years on a wide range of human activities - from breeding new strains of wheat to producing microbes to help to extract the two thirds of the world's crude oil reserves that cannot be recovered with current technology.

Dr Gordon Christich, most active in the biotechnology community, said that the discovery of a laboratory technique for producing new hormones produced by genetic engineering.

Now, he said, he had produced three quantities of two important hormones, insulin and growth hormone. But Dr Christich

was most excited by the prospect of making some of the recently discovered brain hormones in culture of genetically engineered bacteria or animal cells.

A molecule called pancreatic endorphin could be a powerful pain reliever. It can pass through the blood-brain barrier and is therefore biologically active when injected into the blood.

"This molecule has had its gene sequence analysed and cloned in bacteria, and work is under way to produce this in sufficiently large quantities to put into clinical trials," Dr Christich said.

Other brain hormones may be able to alleviate depression and even overcome learning or memory problems.

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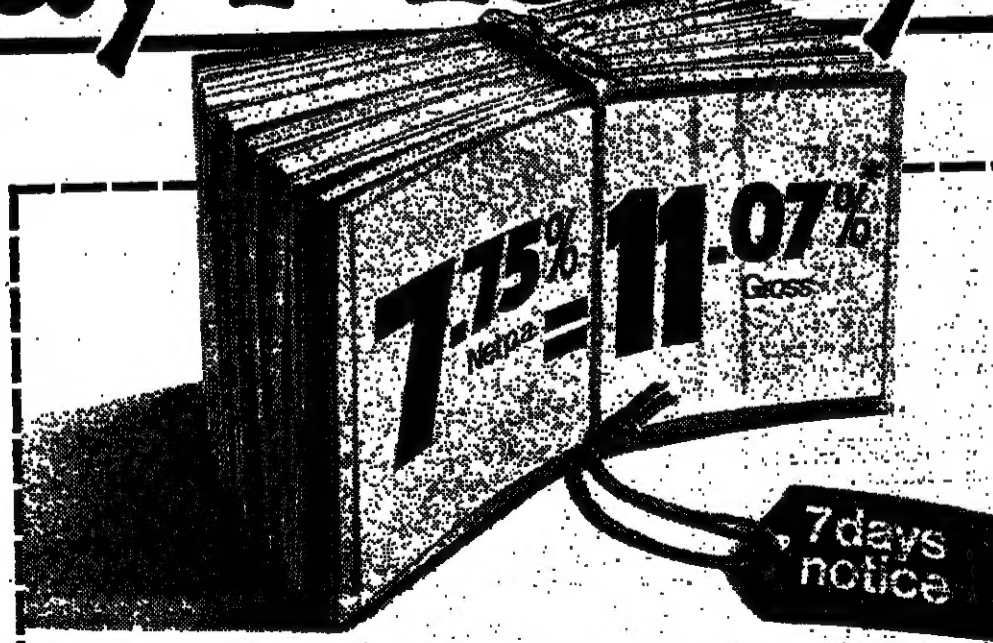
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مكتبة الامن الاسلامي

Widow flies in for funeral

Aquino assassination inquiry ordered

Manila (Reuters) — President Marcos of the Philippines last night announced that a special commission would investigate the murder of Benigno Aquino.

Mr Aquino was shot dead at the airport as he arrived from three years of self-imposed exile on Sunday.

The President's announcement came as the opposition leader's widow, Corason, arrived from the United States with her son and four daughters for his funeral.

"This is a sad day for me, I will say more after seeing my husband", she said at the airport. The family, some of them in tears, were welcomed by relatives and friends and were surrounded by security guards as they left the airport.

The presidential statement said the Government was offering a reward of about \$30,000 for information leading to the arrest of the killer or killers. The special commission would have powers "for a free, unlimited and exhaustive investigation into all aspects of the tragedy". No timing was given for the start of the inquiry.

Demands for an independent inquiry have come from the opposition in Parliament, notably from Mr Francisco Tatad, an independent opposition figure and President Marcos's Information Minister for 10 years.

The palace statement said the commission, headed by chief justice Enrique Fernandez and comprising four other Supreme Court judges, would be empowered to call witnesses and other evidence.

Shortly before the statement was issued, the Manila police chief, Major-General Prospero Olivas, said investigations had produced no clues to the identity of the alleged assassin.



Face in the crowd: Mrs Aquino arriving in Manila last night.

shot dead at the airport by security men.

He said police had been unable to trace ownership of the man's .357 magnum and it would take time to identify his fingerprints if he has a criminal record.

A US congressman said yesterday that President Reagan should not decide whether to go ahead with his planned trip to the Philippines until further

information was available on the murder.

Mr Stephen Solarz, chairman of the House of Representatives subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific affairs, interrupted a tour of South-East Asia to return to Manila and express condolences to the widow and family of Mr Aquino, a personal friend.

Asked about a White House statement that Washington was

not considering cancelling Mr Reagan's November visit because of the killing, he said: "It would be premature to make any final decision at this time until further information is made available on the murder."

In Tokyo, the Japanese journalist who claims Philippine security men shot Mr Aquino, said he may ask Colonel Gaddafi of Libya to help to establish his case.

Whitehall studying 'junta for trial' claim

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Western diplomats were last night studying a report that leading members of the Argentine Government during last year's Falklands conflict are likely to face trial.

The report, in the Buenos Aires Eronist newspaper, *La Voz*, said this was the main recommendation of an official military inquiry set up after the Argentine defeat.

The first reaction of diplomats in Buenos Aires was to accept the report as genuine, but there was no confirmation last night in Whitehall, whose only contact with the Buenos Aires government is through a small interests section in the Swiss Embassy.

Not only General Leopoldo Galtieri and the other two members of the military junta, but also Señor Nicenor Costa Mendez, the former Foreign Minister, and General Mario Benjamín Menéndez, who was appointed governor of the Falklands after the Argentine invasion, have been recommended for trial by the inquiry, according to the newspaper.

● **BUENOS AIRES:** Military sources said recently that the inquiry had concluded that Argentina handled the conflict badly from the start to finish (Reuters reports).

Although the alleged report placed prime responsibility for the conduct of Argentina's diplomacy on the junta, it severely criticized Señor Costa Mendez for being short-sighted and rigid.

He was informed of the junta's intention to use force as an option for gaining control of the Falklands when he was appointed in December 1981. He was told on March 23, 1982, 10 days in advance, that an invasion was going ahead, and he agreed to the plan on condition that Argentina's seizure of the islands should be used as the basis for a subsequent negotiated settlement with Britain.

He did not make the junta understand that Britain might well refuse to negotiate when faced with the completed military action.

It also blamed Señor Costa Mendez for failing to see that the United States would side with Britain in the conflict and for being too rigid in his interpretation of Argentine sovereignty in negotiations to try to avert a military clash with Britain.

Man in the news

Britain to lose a Senate friend

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

The decision by Senator John Tower (Republican, Texas) not to seek reelection next year not only removes from the Senate an outspoken conservative and an ardent campaigner for increased military spending, but will also deprive Britain of one of its leading champions in the US Congress.

During the Falklands crisis last year Senator Tower was the first prominent figure in the United States to speak up openly in support of Britain.

At a time when the US was still trying to act as a mediator between Britain and Argentina, Senator Tower reminded the Reagan Administration of its obligations towards its closest ally if American peace efforts failed. In the event, the US did come out in open support of Britain once the fighting started.

"Congress could have made life very difficult for us if it had



Mr Tower: Pinstripe suits and British cigarettes

wanted to," a British diplomat commented yesterday, referring to the military assistance the United States gave to Britain during the fighting. "Fortunately, American sentiment was heavily in our favour, thanks to the influence of people like John Tower."

Senator Tower, who is 57, looks more like an Englishman

than the son of an itinerant preacher who grew up in the lumber towns of eastern Texas. He favours pinstripe suits and British-made cigarettes and attributes his "global views" to the two years he spent as a graduate student at the London School of Economics in the early 1950s when, he notes, Britain still had an empire.

Senator Tower, who took over Lyndon Johnson's seat in the Senate 22 years ago, is the second most senior Republican in the Upper House and chairman of the Senate's key armed services committee. In this latter capacity he has fought hard to push through President Reagan's defence programme, particularly the controversial MX missile.

His decision not to stand again next year came as a surprise, although it has been noted that he faced a particularly tough fight in a state which by tradition is overwhelmingly Democratic.

Kohl firm despite poll on missiles

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Dr Helmut Kohl yesterday forcefully restated his Government's commitment to deploy new Nato missiles in West Germany and to stick to the planned timetable.

His statements, made in an interview with the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, were published the day after the results of a poll which showed that three quarters of German people are opposed to the new missiles being deployed even if there is no agreement at the Geneva arms talks by the autumn.

The Chancellor said no one could doubt Bonn's determination to install missiles if there was no tangible result in Geneva by November.

"Even a conceivable interim agreement, which I still think is possible - and we will do everything to render our contribution does not make a weapons mix dispensable", he added, underlining his firm rejection of a waiver of the Pershing 2 missiles.

He had reason to believe in "intensive negotiations" in the next round, and called on the Soviet Union to take the necessary steps now, including the dropping of the demand to include British and French missiles. It was only, he said, the "walk in the woods"

compromise - a suggestion that went down badly with the Americans.

His tough stand is intended to be the German reply to the Greek call for a delay of six months in the timetable for deployment. But the Chancellor must also be alarmed by the forces of anti-nuclear sentiment in his own country, which was strikingly shown by a poll commissioned by the ZDF television channel in July.

This showed that 75.5 per cent of all West Germans are in favour of further negotiations and against deployment - an increase over the 62 per cent who opposed the missiles in an earlier poll. Even 61 per cent of Christian Democrats and 71 per cent of Free Democrats, whose parties constitute the Government, shared this view.

The Christian Democratic Union quickly questioned these results, saying the question was missing whether the West Germans wanted to go on being threatened by the Soviet SS20 missiles.

Meanwhile, a polling agency has confirmed that the US information agency has commissioned a poll in West Germany to find out whether Dr Kohl can push through the deployment issue at home.

Chemical weapons hope dashed

From Alan McGregor Geneva

High hopes for an early treaty prohibiting chemical weapons have been dashed as the 40-nation United Nations Disarmament Committee concludes its 1983 session.

The American assessment is one of meagre and disappointing results, with "an effective ban not much closer than it was a year ago".

While asserting that United States Congressional approval for the binary weapons production programme "kills those talks", the Russians are simultaneously urging much more intensive negotiations when the committee begins its 1984 session in early February.

The Russians contend that the Americans are excessively rigid on the crucial issue of verification, but the Russians have been very slow to follow up their acceptance last year of the concept of on-site inspection by clarifying what they have in mind.

Their intention of leaving many points to be settled at a later stage is anathema to the United States which wants verification procedure details clear cut.

Crucial day for Malta at Madrid conference

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Intensive contacts went on yesterday among delegations to the 35-nation European Security Review conference before today's crucial meeting set by Spain for Malta to drop its stubborn stand which has held up a concluding meeting at foreign ministers level early next month.

All the nations, except Malta, reached agreement on a final document on East-West relations on July 15. Malta has held out for greater attention to

Mediterranean security problems.

The centrepiece of this East-west gathering, the first since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979, would be the encounter between Mr George Shultz, the United States Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

A subsequent concluding session of the nearly three-year old meeting would be held separately.

Swiss Army chooses a German tank

From Our Correspondent, Geneva

The Swiss Army's new combat tank is to be the West German Leopard 2. Not the American M1 Abrams. This decision was approved yesterday by the Swiss Cabinet.

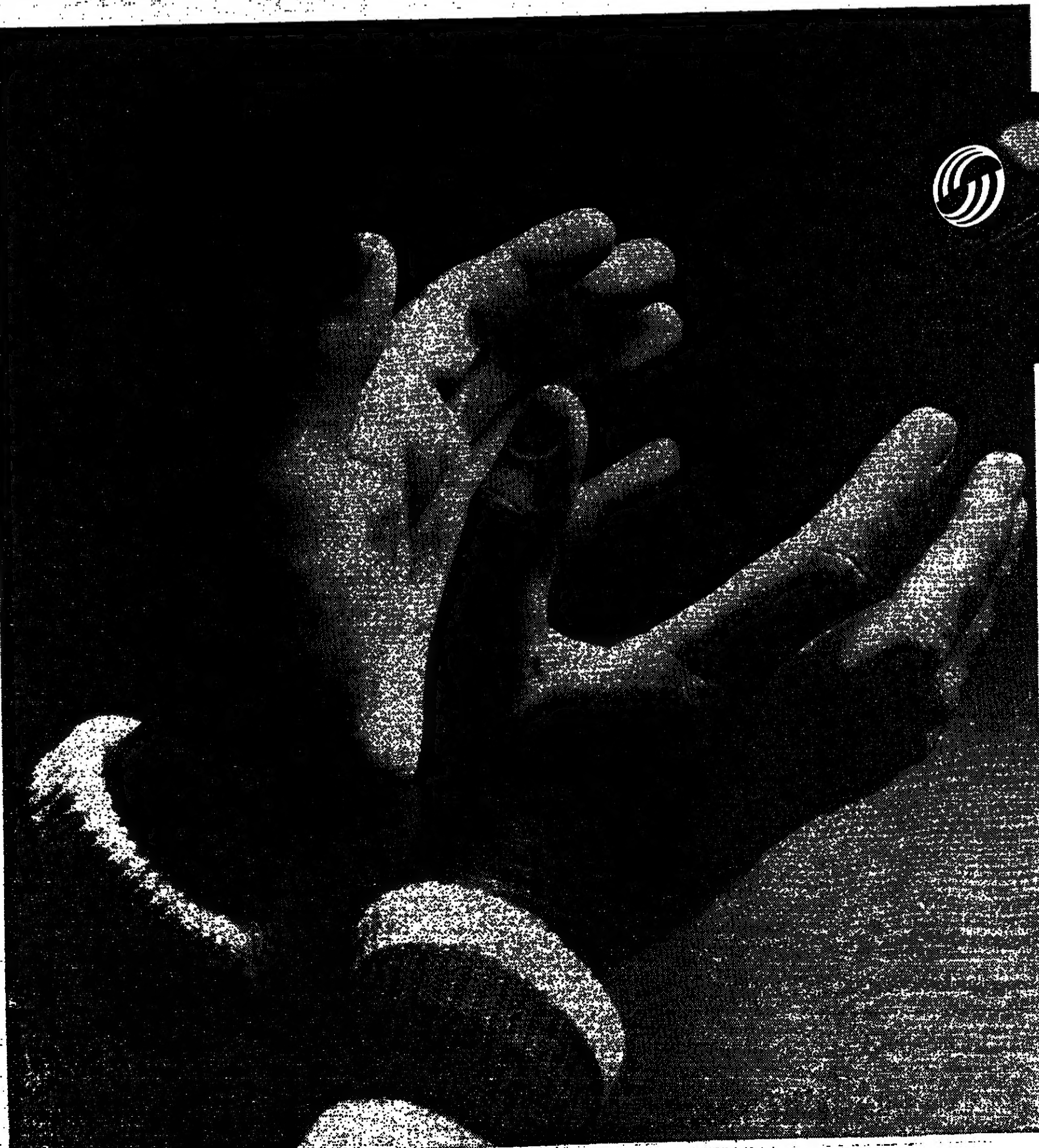
2,500m Swiss franc (£796m) credit is being opened for a first series of 210, of which 35 will be imported direct from the manufacturers, Kraus Maffei, Munich and 175 will be constructed under licence in Switzerland.

This initial sum will also

cover servicing and maintenance equipment for a further 210 tanks, built under licence. Deliveries will be spaced over 15 years.

Technical evaluation of the two tanks started more than two years ago, with two models of each under test.

The arrangement for manufacture under licence will give the West German tank a price advantage. The Leopard 2 was also judged to be more "technically mature".



One opportunity that must not slip through Britain's fingers.

Twenty-five years ago, Britain's civil aircraft industry led the world with programmes like the Comet and the Viscount.

The all-new Airbus A320, the world's most advanced jetliner, will give British industry the opportunity to demonstrate itself a leader once again.

The remarkable A320, on which Britain will stake its aerospace future, is currently under the microscope of many key airlines around the world. Alongside it are some American derivatives whose basic technology stretches back to the early sixties.

At least 6000 British high-tech workers conscious of their future consider this unequal comparison is hardly fair competition.



Turkish poll restricted to three parties at end of approval deadline

Only three parties will be able to contest the Turkish elections, set for November 6, because no others were able to meet the requirements of having by yesterday at least 30 approved founders and being organized in at least 34 of the 67 provinces.

The parties which qualified are the right-centre National List Democracy Party, headed by Mr Turgut Sunalp, a former General, and reputed to be enjoying the full backing of the ruling military, the conservative Motherland Party of former Deputy Prime Minister and economy chief Mr Turgut Ozal, and the Populist Party, which claims to represent the social democrats, headed by Mr Necdet Calp, a former provincial governor.

The rest of the 14 parties established since last May to replace ones banned after the army coup in September 1980, were excluded.

Among the excluded are the conservative Right Way Party and the social democrat Sodep. Both were left short of the required number of founders because of vetoes by the ruling National Security Council last Friday on the alternative names they had proposed, although they had easily organized in all the provinces.

From Rasit Gurdlek, Ankara

Seen by the electorate as the true inheritors of the pre-coup Justice Party and the Republican People's Party, the Right Way and Sodep had been confidently claiming the support of 10 and 9 million voters respectively, which together nearly equals the total of 19.6 million Turks declared eligible to vote.

The latest vetoes elicited strong protests from the former Sodep leader, Mr Erdal Inonu and the Right Way chairman, Mr Yildirim Avcı, that the poll and the form of government to follow would be anything but democratic.

The protest has prompted an investigation - which may lead to a prosecution - against Mr Inonu, son of Ismet Inonu the soldier and statesman.

The three parties allowed to enter the poll will compete for some 400 seats in a single-chamber Grand National Assembly to be elected for a five-year term. But candidates will also have to run the gauntlet of vetoes by the National Security Council. Parties will have to secure at least 10 per cent of the votes cast to be represented in Parliament.

The National Security Council and the Quasi-Parliamentary Consultative Assembly will be disbanded upon the inauguration of parliament, but President Kenan Evren, vested with sweeping powers by the new constitution adopted last November, will still have a dominant position above it for six more years.

The main contest is expected to be between the Nationalist Democracy Party, on whose ticket Mr Bulend Uslu, the Prime Minister, and four ministers will run as independent candidates, and the Motherland Party, which is credited with rapidly growing support.

Voting is compulsory, on pain of heavy fines. President Evren has been constantly warning people against "the instructions of former politicians for them to cast blank votes".

The leader of the two main excluded parties have reacted calmly. Yesterday Mr Cezmi Kartay, the Sodep chairman, said exclusion of his party would not mean the cessation of its activities. A spokesman for the Right Way said a statement would be issued after a meeting of party executives.

Political observers expect the leading figures of both parties to run as independent candidates.

Iran settles debt to US bank

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Iran has paid \$419.5 (£280m) it owed to the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the Treasury Department announced here.

It is the biggest debt settlement that Iran has made to American banks under the January 1981 agreement for the release of 52 American hostages held in Iran for 444 days.

As part of the hostages agreement, \$1,418m was put in a Bank of England escrow

account to cover settlements of claims of United States banks for loans to the pre-revolutionary Government of the Shah.

Iran has also settled claims of 19 other American commercial banks.

The 20 settlements have drawn down the escrow account by about \$895.9m.

In return for the latest payment, the federally supported Export-Import Bank has withdrawn claims pending at an

Iran-US claims tribunal, which was established under the hostages agreement.

The Treasury announcement said that the Export-Import Bank would receive \$419.5m in payment on its non-syndicated debt claims against Iran.

The announcement also said that other US banks have been meeting Bank Markazi representatives in London and were in the process of negotiating their respective claims



Dressed to kill: Lieutenant-General Abdul-Halim Abu Ghazala, the Egyptian Defence Minister, left, and US Lieutenant-General Robert Kingston reviewing joint manoeuvres yesterday in the Western Desert.

Nightmare stops an airliner

Ankara (AFP) - A West German passenger forced a Turkish airliner to return to Istanbul shortly after take-off on Tuesday when he apparently awoke from a nap and mistook a nightmare for reality, the newspaper *Haaretz* reported.

Herr Wolfgang Struppe, from Munich, leapt out of his seat, shouting there was a bomb on the aircraft, which returned to Yesilkoy airport.

A search of the suitcase to which Herr Struppe pointed revealed not a bomb but a bottle of raki, a potent local liquor. He said he had fallen asleep before take-off and dreamt that a bomb was hidden in the suitcase and woke up shouting in terror.

He was arrested and an investigation has been opened by the authorities.

Top man's surrender blow to Solidarity

Warsaw (Reuters, AP) - The Polish Authorities yesterday questioned Mr Wladyslaw Haredek, a leading figure in the Solidarity underground whose decision to surrender to police was the biggest setback yet to the banned trade union.

His appearance on state television on Tuesday night, reading a statement renouncing further underground activity as pointless, raised questions about the future of the struggle by activists in hiding to promote the ideals of the movement.

It was clearly a blow to opposition morale and followed a weak response to a call for a go-slow as part of protests marking the third anniversary of the strikes and agreements that led to the birth of the union in 1980.

Official sources in Cracow, where Mr Haredek operated as the regional underground leader, said he was interviewed at the military prosecutor's office. He reported to police earlier this week.

They believed he would be freed soon under the terms of an amnesty declared when martial law was lifted last month, offering activists freedom from prosecution if they surrendered and made statements of their offences.

Solidarity figures in Warsaw speculated that Mr Haredek may have been captured by the authorities and threatened with a stiff jail term if he refused to announce his "surrender".

Mr Lech Walesa, chairman of Solidarity, questioned about Mr Haredek as he left the Gdansk shipyard, said, "I don't speculate about things like that. I am just not going to talk about it."

Suicide note reveals Nazi's fear

Bonn (Reuters) - A former Nazi officer poisoned himself because he could not face being tried for the deaths of hundreds of French Jews, according to a suicide note. A spokesman for the Bonn State District Court said yesterday that Richard-Whitman, 74, claimed that he had been a tool acting under orders and knew nothing of the annihilation of the Jews until after the war.

Herr Freise, an SS officer had been charged with being an accessory to the murder of 1,372 Jews.

Three other SS officers, Walter Nachrich, aged 74; Modest Graf Korff, aged 73; and Rolf Bilharz, aged 74, have been accused of aiding in the murder of 73,000 French Jews who were deported between March 1942 and 1944. They are due to stand trial in October.

● **Gypsies gassed:** A retired West German medical director, Helmut Ruesch, aged 65, has been charged with being an accessory to the murder of gypsies exposed to experimental war gases in the Nazi concentration camp of Natzweiler, Alsace in 1944.

● **BOSTON:** A US lawyer said here that the accused Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie worked for the intelligence services of several countries apart from the United States after the Second World War (Reuters reports). Mr John Loftis, who prosecuted the Nazi far right US Justice Department refused to identify them.

Chad says rebels are advancing

Ndjamena (Reuters) - Two columns of rebels backed by Libyan armour in northern Chad are advancing towards two government outposts, the Chad Information Minister, Mr Soumeia Mahamat, said yesterday.

He said the columns, each including up to 1,500 Libyan troops and around 100 Soviet-built T62 and T72 tanks, were moving along two roads which lead to the capital through the semi-desert region. There had been no fighting yet, he said.

The Western column was moving on Koro-Toro, which lies 125 miles north of the government garrison at Salé, where an estimated 100 French paratroopers are also stationed.

The eastern column was heading for Oum Chalouba, 190 miles south-east of the oasis town of Faya-Largeau which the rebels captured two weeks ago and turned into a major base. Koro-Toro is deserted but the government still has troops at Oum Chalouba, although Western diplomatic sources here say they believe it is indefensible.

Life for French troops at Salé is so tough they will have to be rotated, to prevent mental problems, an Italian journalist says.

● **Signor Lucio Lani** of the Milan Newspaper *Il Giornale*, the only journalist so far to reach Salé, said the outpost consists of 15 mud houses clustered around a single well.

● **PARIS:** France wants a peaceful settlement to the crisis but this implies a position of strength in the field, our government spokesman, Mr Max Gallo, said here (AFP reports). He added that above all Chad was an African affair and it was up to the Africans to resolve it, perhaps within the Organization of African Unity.

● **NAIROBI:** Mr Maurice Fauré, chairman of the French National Assembly's foreign affairs committee, arrived in Addis Ababa with a message from president Mitterrand on the crisis for Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Ethiopian leader and current OAU chairman (AFP reports).

BAOR men accused of armed robbery

Bonn - Three soldiers from the First Battalion the Irish Guards are being held in British military custody in Munster after being arrested by German police on charges of armed robbery. (Michael Hayton writes)

The three men, whose names have not been given, are alleged to have raided a petrol station on June 30 using British Army Sterling sub-machine guns, and stolen cigarettes, sweets and DM 2,000 (£300) in cash. They were said to have been caught after fleeing in a car which then crashed.

A spokesman for the British Army of the Rhine said a military investigation was now complete, and the Army was waiting to see whether the West German authorities would waive their jurisdiction.

Sinatra sues

Las Vegas (Reuters) - Frank Sinatra is seeking \$10m (£6.6m) damages from a nightclub here called "Sinatras", alleging that the owners, the brothers Duane, Dennis and Paul Sinatra, misappropriated his name and were trying to mislead the public. The singer has a new contract to perform exclusively at a hotel and casino three blocks away.

Kidnapped

Napoli (Reuters) - Two Soviet technicians have been killed and 24 kidnapped in Mozambique in the continuing harassment of foreign aid specialists by opponents of the Machi Government. A number of Mozambicans were also seized in the raid on a tantalum mine at Morima, Soviet sources said.

Mafia dug in

Rome (Reuters) - It will be the year 2000 before the Mafia is defeated, Signor Emanuele De Francesco, the special commissioner charged with fighting the criminal network, said in an interview. The Mafia mentality remained deeply entrenched and had to be tackled in schools, but this would take time.

Nevis in step

Basseterre (Reuters) - The coalition Government of the St Kitts-Nevis Prime Minister, Mr Kennedy Simmonds, made a clean sweep of all five seats in a new legislative assembly to handle affairs on the smaller island of Nevis after the twin-island state gains independence on September 19.

A-waste block

Brussels (Reuters) - Belgium and Switzerland have suspended indefinitely the disposal of 3,700 tonnes of radioactive waste in the Atlantic because of a dumping boycott by British seamen. The British company under contract cannot raise a crew.

Shagari victory

Lagos (AFP) - President Shagari's National Party of Nigeria has won 55 of the 85 federal Senate seats contested last Saturday. Voting for the remaining 11 seats was put off because of violence or electoral irregularities.

Queen foiled

Johannesburg - Judgment in an application to the Swaziland High Court by Queen Dhedwe to make her dismissal as Queen Regent declared illegal was withheld after a proclamation that royal affairs were beyond the prerogative of the courts.

Children killed

Cologne (Reuters) - Eight people, including five children, died and five others were injured in a three-car crash near Cologne on Tuesday night. A tyre on one of the vehicles burst.

Nepal epidemic

Katmandu (AP) - Twenty-four more people died of the gastro-enteritis in Nepal, bringing the number of deaths from the disease to 95 in the past two weeks. Doctors have been sent to affected areas to deal with the epidemic, which is spreading.

School falls

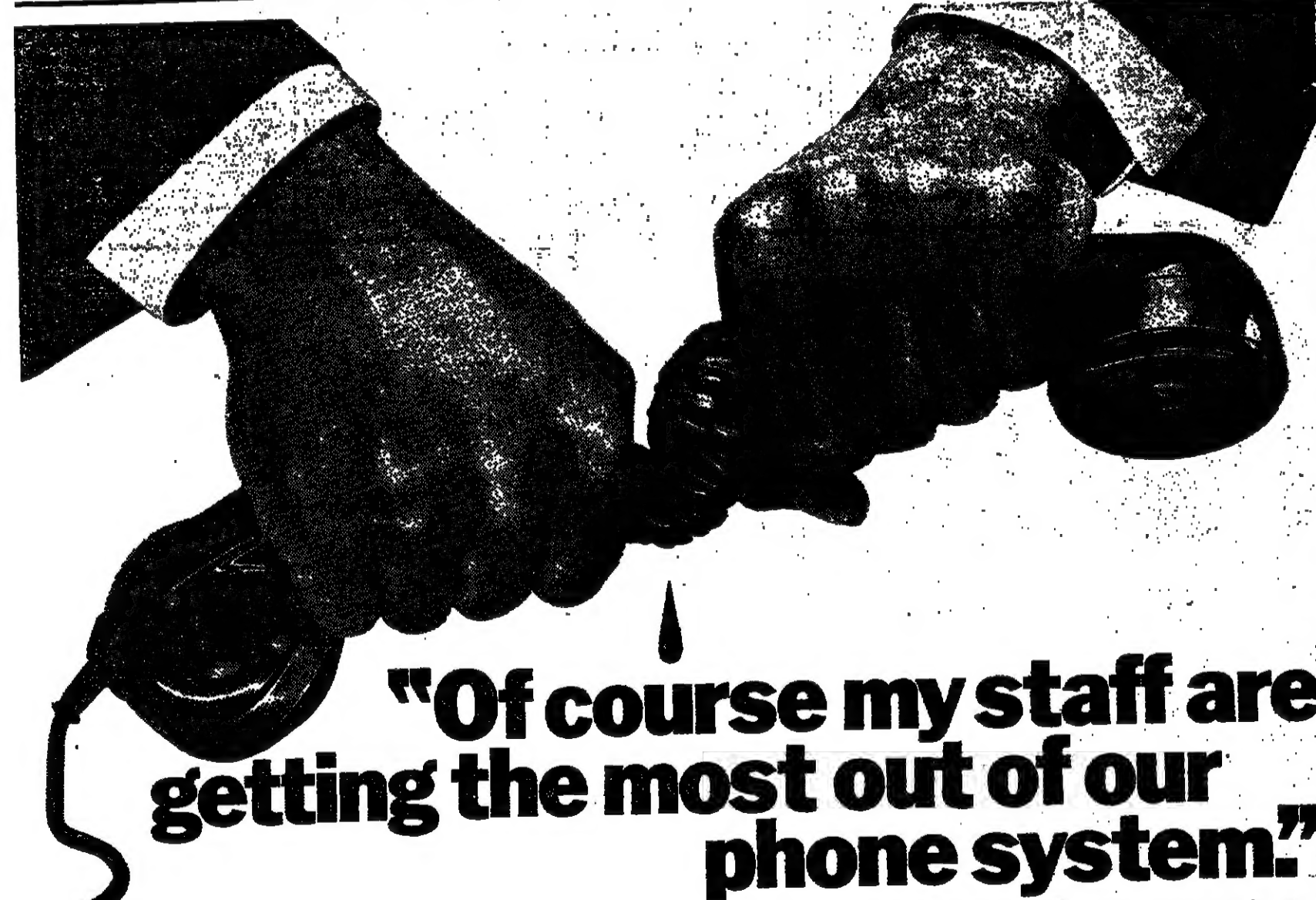
Taipei (Reuters) - Twenty-two students were killed and 63 injured when a school at Feng Yuan, 100 miles south of Taipei, collapsed during opening ceremonies for the new term. Rescue workers feared more bodies might be found.

Drugs arrest

Amsterdam (AFP) - Police arrested a 31-year-old Londoner, identified only by his initials "LRS", in connection with a narcotics haul in central Amsterdam earlier this week in which 77 lb of hashish were seized.

Catalan JR

Barcelona (AD) - From mid-September the American television series *Dallas* is to be shown throughout Catalonia dubbed in Catalan. Spaniards who do not speak this regional language will be out of luck.



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The story so far: Seamus Dally, car-hire millionaire and would-be broadcaster, is accused of removing a double yellow line in order to park without charge. He denies the charge stoutly, as who wouldn't. Now read on. You never know it might happen to you.

Counsel: Mr Dally, the court has heard the police witness describe how the whole street was covered in a double yellow line. It has also heard you say that there was a gap in the double yellow line large enough for you to park in. Why do you honestly expect the court to believe you or the police?

Defendant: There is another theory that has not even been considered by the court so far, and that is that the yellow line was there all the time - but was not visible.

Counsel: Could you explain that?

Defendant: There is nothing easier than to buy a roll of black sticky tape and to spread it out over the double yellow line in such a way that it entirely covers the paint and looks like a bit of road, potholes and all.

Counsel: So that's what you did!

Judge: So that's the way it was?

Defendant: Not at all. You merely asked me for another explanation and I have given you one. I neither removed the yellow line nor covered it up. However, there is yet another theory...

Judge: Great stuff! I love theories. It's facts I can't handle.

Defendant: I would like to call a witness.

Judge: Defendants can't call witnesses, not if they're already in the witness stand.

Defendant: We can in Ireland. Call William Carstairs! (After a bit of shuffling, Mr Carstairs sits on to the witness stand with the defendant.) You are William Carstairs, a road-painter?

Carstairs: I was then.

Defendant: When?

Carstairs: In 1980, the year you are going to ask me about, when I painted Sears Roebuck Road and to end with a double yellow line.

Defendant: Could you tell the court how you arrived at your work?

Carstairs: I drove there.

Defendant: And where did you leave your car?

Carstairs: In Sears Roebuck Road, of course. It was the only free street for miles.

Defendant: Did you paint yellow lines under your car?

Carstairs: No, I left it till later, so that when I moved the car - oh, blimey! You're right! I clean forgot to go back and paint that bit. Stone me!

Defendant: And there, gentlemen of the jury, you have it. The yellow lines were not removed by me because they were never there in the first place. In fact, I myself went back the next day and painted the lines in, voluntarily. Alas, of all the yellow lines in London, that short stretch is not the property of the Metropolitan Police; it belongs to me.

Judge: If I have got this straight, a man stands here accused of taking something which was never there, and even if it had been there, it would have been his own property. Who says that British justice is not the most wonderful in the world? Case dismissed.

Clerk: My Lord, we have just had a message from the outside world. It's from the BBC, and they say that one of their employees, a Mr Henry Kelly, is not feeling well. They ask if the defendant is free to stand by to replace him...

Defendant: Lord be praised! It's my big break! Hallelujah!

(Readers who like happy endings may be interested to know that the Seamus Dally Show will be one of the BBC's big autumn offerings.)

SOLUTION TO No 132
ACROSS: 1 Sawyer 4 Honest 7 Beef 8 Aquarium 9 America 12 Wan 15 Unhappy 16 Platen 17 Gal 19 Sissors 24 Karamitza 25 Pail 26 Smoker 27 Livery
DOWN: 1 Sobs 2 Whetstical 3 Riata 4 Hour 5 Mark 6 Scuba 10 Riles 11 Atlas 12 Water rate 13 Non 14 Bump 18 Alarm 20 Chair 21 Spel 22 Rugs 23 Play

The walls of the observing room at Jodrell Bank are made up of banks of amplifiers, cables and computers, which analyse and record the signals picked up by the big dish. It was here, last thing at night for his three decades as director of the Nuffield Radio Astronomy Laboratories, that Sir Bernard Lovell would end his day, checking on the work in progress, offering advice and encouragement to the few remaining staff.

And it is Jodrell Bank which is Lovell's most tangible achievement and the most obvious evidence of his position as a major figure in international astronomy.

Born in Gloucestershire, Lovell graduated from Bristol university and in 1936 became assistant lecturer in physics at Manchester university, where he came under the considerable influence of Professor Patrick Blackett.

Lovell's early research was with cosmic rays, the nuclei of atoms which hurtle through space. But like many other academics of his time he soon became involved in the development of radar (radio detection and range). On September 3, 1939, the day that Chamberlain broadcast the news that Britain was at war, Lovell was working in the operations room of an early warning station at Saxton Wold in Yorkshire.

He was part of a team developing radar for airborne interception (AI), enabling night fighters to locate enemy aircraft and manoeuvre within visual range. It was through working with radar during the war that Lovell also became familiar with the experimental problems of working with radio waves.

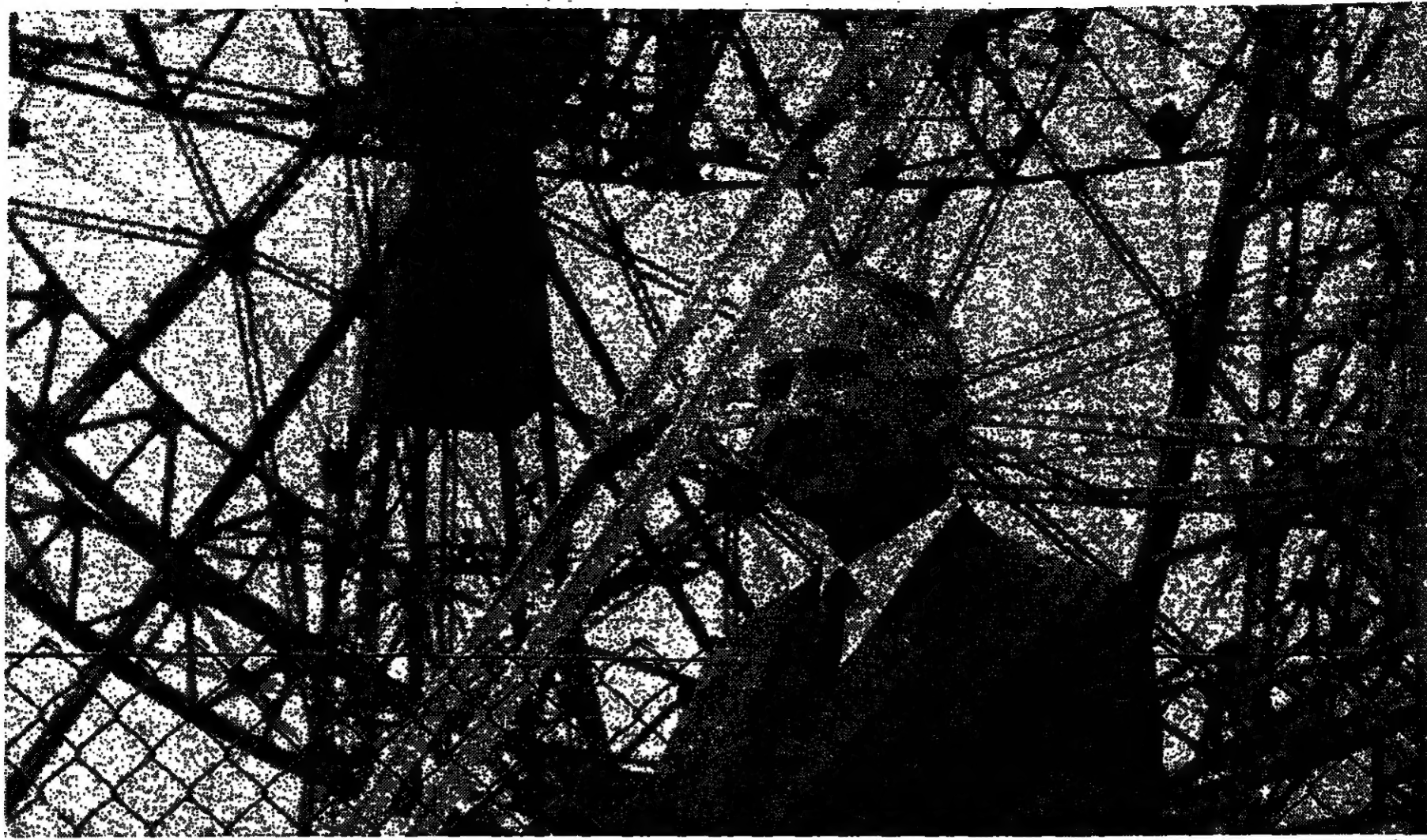
As the war continued, Lovell was placed in charge of another crucial radar development. Night bombing of Germany was proving ineffective. Two thirds of all crews failed to strike within five miles of their targets. The project, codenamed H2S, was the development of a radar "blind bombing" system to help pilots find their targets, but the system was bedevilled by problems.

On July 3, 1942 however, Lovell and his colleagues met Winston Churchill in the Cabinet Room. Churchill demanded that the blind bombing apparatus be operational by October, a seemingly impossible task. But at the end of the year a system was working. By the end of 1943, 32,000 out of 53,000 sorties were led by H2S aircraft. The same system could also detect submarines surfacing under cover of night. Hitler confessed that "the temporary setback in our U-boat campaign is due to a single technical invention of our enemies".

Lovell later said that he found his wartime experiences frustrating. At the end of the war, exhausted by six years of intense pressure, he returned to Manchester with two trailers of surplus radar equipment and a diesel with frozen fuel pipes. He set up a primitive station south of the city with two gardeners of the university's botanical grounds for company. The land once belonged to William Jauderell, who had fought with the Black Prince at Poitiers.

Some time before this, Lovell had suggested to Blackett that the rapid and transient echoes seen by coastal defence and airborne radar might be reflections from cosmic ray showers. Together they drew up a famous paper *Radio echoes and cosmic ray showers* (Blackett rewrote Lovell's first draft in a Westminster shelter during an air raid). The echoes turned out not to be from cosmic rays but from meteors and on October 9, 1946, Lovell observed an intense meteor shower.

His work soon demonstrated that the strongly held belief that sporadic meteors came from outside our solar system was wrong. Meteors are pieces of rocky debris that circle the sun, ranging in size from the microscopic upwards. When one no bigger than a pinhead enters the earth's atmosphere it burns up, becoming a familiar



The Times Profile: Sir Bernard Lovell at 70

"shooting star". Radar enabled much fainter and even daytime meteors to be detected. Later Lovell was to write a classic textbook on the subject.

In 1946, construction began of a 218ft diameter fixed parabolic telescope consisting of fields of wires. This telescope contributed much to the reemergence of radio astronomy after the Second World War.

By 1948, Lovell had plans for a 250ft fully steerable dish. After a meeting at Edinburgh university, where Lovell presented his case, Sir Edward Appleton recorded: "All present were emphatic that every effort should be made to erect such a steerable instrument in Great Britain". In 1950 support came from astronomical and governmental quarters and in 1952 Husband and Company of Sheffield and London were appointed as engineers. Work began that autumn.

Ten thousand tons of reinforced concrete were poured into the foundations and eventually 2,000 tons of metal made up the superstructure. But the construction of the "big dish" was far from straightforward. The escalating costs became the subject of a House of Commons committee. Delays, mounting costs, increasing debts and bureaucracy wove a 10-year nightmare of intractable problems around Lovell, threatening at one time to send him to prison for alleged overspending of government money.

There was bitter opposition from other university departments and from Manchester corporation. But the public rallied and contributed £500,000 of the £850,000 cost. Although huge at the time, these sums were tiny compared to those spent on the US and Russian space programmes.

The first radio waves were picked up on August 2, 1957. Two months later the Russians launched Sputnik 1.

Lovell was in the right place at the right time and had an instrument that could vastly outperform anything else. One small radar echo confounded the opponents of Jodrell Bank, who were calling it a costly and technological white elephant. Jodrell Bank produced not only radar trackings of the first ever artificial satellite, but also its

carrier rocket, the first ever intercontinental ballistic missile. Nothing in the US or the USSR could match the big dish.

Later Jodrell was to pull off another coup. It transmitted signals to the American Pioneer V deep space probe to release it from its carrier rocket. The big dish was the only one capable of establishing radio contact with the probe at a distance of more than 22 million miles. Afterwards, a telephone call came from Lord Nuffield:

"Is that Lovell?" "Yes, my lord."

"How much is still owing on the telescope?" "About £50,000." "Is that all, I want to pay it off."

Lovell was left speechless. It was Jodrell's contribution to astronomy. However, that kept it at the forefront of science for decades. Radio echoes from the moon gave a new accuracy to the measurement of the solar system. The telescope did much to investigate the shape and rotation of our own Milky Way. Because radio light is scarce compared to optical light it can traverse vast distances through space. Jodrell Bank measured the positions of radio sources that were found to be the most distant and energetic objects known in

the universe. These were called quasars and are exploding galaxies half a universe away.

I first met Lovell when I was a research student at Jodrell Bank. I was the junior member of the team headed by Lovell which looked for explosions on the surfaces of nearby stars - explosions similar to the solar flares seen on the sun.

Over the past decade the emphasis of research at Jodrell Bank has shifted away from the use of the single big dish to explore the universe. Jodrell pioneered a technique called radio interferometry whereby two small dishes some distance apart can be electronically connected in such a way as to perform like a single large dish of a size equal to the distance between them. Jodrell now has an array of telescopes throughout England and Wales which it uses to emit signals of a strength equal to that of an enormous single telescope.

Lovell's stewardship of what is perhaps Britain's most famous centre for science has not gone without criticism. A recent research team from the University of Sussex compared Jodrell Bank with three other centres of radio astronomy: Cambridge and

two others in Europe. They concluded that Jodrell performed poorly in the years 1969-78.

Lovell counters by arguing that this 10-year period is an unrepresentative "snapshot" and that it is misleading to compare Jodrell and Cambridge, since they are two aspects of the same national radio astronomy programme. Lovell points out that in 1967 he and other top radio astronomers took a policy decision to delay the re-equipping of Jodrell Bank and to build an array of telescopes at Cambridge.

In 1981, when Lovell handed over the directorship of Jodrell to Professor Graham Smith - who had left Jodrell in 1974 to become director of the Royal Greenwich Observatory - he pointed out that the big dish had already exceeded its expected 15-year lifetime by 10 years and was good for at least another 20.

Aside from his technical publications, Lovell has written many popular books communicating his understanding as well as his philosophy of nature. He conveys an exciting and positive image of all aspects of science and unlike many science writers is not swayed by fad or fashion. He is a complex and diverse person.

His keen interest in cricket has recently led to an investigation into electronic aids for umpires. He has demonstrated the art of water divining. Other interests include gardening and literature. He is a musician who particularly enjoys Elgar.

His love of his country was exemplified when he said that being away from England in the spring was "a peculiar form of masochism".

Although retired from the directorship of Jodrell Bank, Lovell still continues his researches and writings in an office built for him in the shadow of the big dish. It is true to say that radio astronomy has changed man's conception of the universe. The radio astronomy facilities he built up at Jodrell Bank have played a large role in the widening of horizons. Lovell has called it "the centre of immensities".

David Whitehouse

The author is an astrophysicist at University College London.



As seen by David Levine in 1989

ALFRED CHARLES BERNARD LOVELL
born August 31, 1913.
1936 Assistant lecturer in physics at Manchester university.
1937 Married Mary Joyce Chesterman.
1939 Development of radar airborne interception system.
1941 December 22: placed in charge of blind bombing.
1945 December: returns to Manchester with surplus radio equipment.
1946 Construction begins of 218ft fixed dish.
1952 Autumn: Construction of Mark I telescope begins.
1955 Elected Fellow of Royal Society.
1957 August 2: Mark I telescope operational.
1957 October 13: Became first ever professor of radio astronomy.
1960 March 11: Pioneer 5 contacted at 22 million miles.
1961 Knighted.
1969-71 President Royal Astronomical Society.
1970-75 Vice-president International Astronomical Union.
1981 October: Retires as director of Jodrell Bank.

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research
PUBLIC OPINION



From time to time, usually several times a day, I am amused, astounded, aghast and/or outraged at the attitudes and opinions of the British public. But no study has had more amusement in my recollection than we at MORI have recently completed for Thomas Cook on the subject of children's attitudes to holidays among a cross-section of eight to twelve year olds throughout Britain. The details will be reported more fully in *The Times* Friday Page tomorrow, so I'll not dwell upon them here, only to tell you my favourite bits.

The first was travelling to the holiday; among those who went by ship, nearly half (44 per cent) thought it "very exciting". But it clearly had its drawbacks one 12-year-old girl told us: "You start to get excited. I love going on ferries, then you start to get ill".

The other finding I liked best was about who chooses where to go. None of the kids we talked to claimed they alone made the choice, but about one in six said they participate in the decision-making to a greater or lesser degree, like the nine-year girl who said: "We have this quiz, who goes where, and my dad normally wins".

Never on Sunday?

The House Secretary has announced that the Government is to investigate the Sunday trading regulations. And well they might, for according to the work we carried out for the National Consumer Council last year, 62 per cent of the public said they wanted their MPs to vote for a Bill allowing shops to choose when they open and shut.

Smoking out



The General Household Survey's 1982 results have just been released by the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys showing a continuing decline in the consumption of cigarettes. In 1972, 52 per cent of the public were smokers. The figure has declined steadily over the decade and now just more than a third, (38 per cent of men and 33 per cent of women) are regular smokers. A third of men and half of women have never (or only very occasionally) smoked.

There is a striking association between cigarette smoking and social class. Only about one in five of those in the professions now smoke, 29 per cent of employers and managers, around four in ten of skilled manual workers but nearly half of unskilled manual workers smoke. In those least able to afford the expense.



25% 12% 13%

Best men

What do Enoch Powell and Lord (Arnold) Weinstock of GEC have in common? Each is regarded by his peers as the most impressive of the breed. Each year MORI conducts a survey of 100 Members of Parliament and each year we ask our sample of MPs to name the most impressive back benches in the House. Each year the result is the same: Enoch Powell.

Last year Chris Patten was runner-up, but Mrs Thatcher has posted him to the Northern Ireland office so he's disqualified from the competition. This year Ted Heath ran second and Francis Pym was third. Next year Michael Foot, by then no longer leader of the Opposition, will be eligible; wonder if he'll give them a run for their money?

In the past, Lord Weinstock has been judged by a sizable margin to be the most outstanding industrialist by the 200 or so "Captains of Industry" we interview. This year it was a closer race, with "Steel Bar" MacGregor at 12 per cent behind Weinstock, who had 25 per cent of the vote. Sir Michael Edwards coming narrowly third at 12 per cent.

Gone East



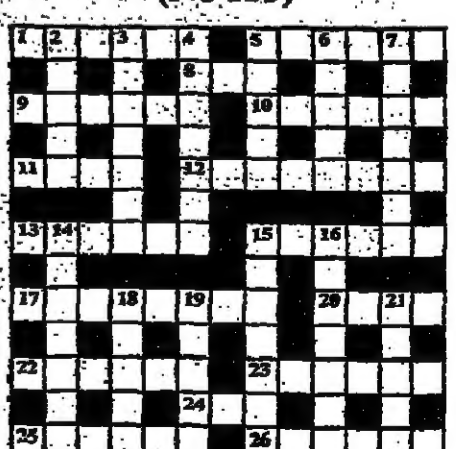
It is holiday time for much of the population. Roads are less crowded, commuter trains less packed, restaurants tables are easier to book and generally it seems easier to get about. About 6 per cent of the electorate were away from home on June 9, including 5 per cent who were on holiday and therefore unable to vote at the general election.

According to the 1982 British Tourist Authority's British National Travel Survey, carried out by NOP, 24 per cent of holidays in Britain are taken in August, as are 17 per cent of holidays taken abroad. Two thirds, 66 per cent, of those who went abroad travelled by air, 30 per cent by boat, 3 per cent by Hovercraft and 61 per cent went on package holidays (including "cruises"). Spain/Majorca was still the most popular destination (26 per cent), with France in second place at 14 per cent, Greece 8 per cent, Italy 6 per cent and United States at 5 per cent, down (along with the pound) from 7 per cent last year.

Robert Worcester

The author is managing director of Market Opinion and Research International.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 133)



- ACROSS
1 Religious sanctuary (6)
5 Torture pleasure (6)
8 Car company (1,1,1)
9 Carved figure (6)
10 Core all (6)
11 Move slowly (4)
12 Study of ideas (3)
13 Foy (6)
15 Venerated (6)
17 Yukon gold area (3)
20 Stem core (4)
21 Fish and chip shop (6)
24 Mimic (3)
25 Lecture hall (6)
26 Seaman's jacket (6)
- DOWN
2 Frequently (5)
3 Trousers (7)
4 Great fatness (7)
5 Play chapter (5)
6 Bone hole (5)
7 Beach gravel (7)
14 Unfortunate (7)
15 Short jacket (7)
16 Prisoner (7)
18 Early music symbol (5)
19 Modern religion (5)
21 Cone-shaped tent (5)
- SOLUTION TO No 132
ACROSS: 1 Sawyer 4 Honest 7 Beef 8 Aquarium 9 America 12 Wan 15 Unhappy 16 Platen 17 Gal 19 Sissors 24 Karamitza 25 Pail 26 Smoker 27 Livery
DOWN: 1 Sobs 2 Whetstical 3 Riata 4 Hour 5 Mark 6 Scuba 10 Riles 11 Atlas 12 Water rate 13 Non 14 Bump 18 Alarm 20 Chair 21 Spel 22 Rugs 23 Play

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CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Brian Alderson hunts the golden hare Selling a million?

Quest for the Golden Hare
by Bamber Gascoigne
(Cape, £7.95)

In August 1979 the artist Kit Williams buried an 18-carat golden hare in a park at Arthropill. A month later Jonathan Cape published his book of largely pictorial clues to its discovery under the title of *Masquerade*. And in February 1982, after a million copies of the book had been sold, a gentleman who called himself Ken Thomas dug the thing up. For everyone involved - not least the tens of thousands of disappointed treasure-hunters - *Masquerade* became a 946 (or 947) day wonder. Now though, with the publication of Bamber Gascoigne's *Quest*, it is to be hoped that the whole episode can be interpreted as a good deal deeper than ever was the hare.

One reason for saying this is the conclusiveness of Mr Gascoigne's story. As the only witness at the start of the performance, and as a self-confessed duffer at puzzles, he is well placed to give a full and a dispassionate account of the *Masquerade* craze and he has taxed this essentially trivial event for all its possible implications. (Not the least of these is men's infinite capacity

for self-delusion.) Moreover, he manages to rib gently both the creators of and the contestants in the craze, so that despite the apparent solidity of his 224-page analysis there is much occasion for quiet comedy.

But a stronger reason for wanting to commit the whole affair to oblivion relates to its baleful effect on the way that people think about picture books. For - as Mr Gascoigne clearly shows - Kit Williams was not really interested in creating a book where words and pictures grow into an organic unity. *Masquerade* was primarily a bound-up collection of paintings, forced into a crude relationship to each other by a remarkably banal text. In essence it was just another example of those picture books so beloved of Central European publishers and Hampstead book-buyers which follow the adage "Never mind the story, just look at the paint".

This view has dominated much picture-book publishing in recent years - although it is now being overtaken by a perverse cult of graphic crudity. ("Never mind the story, look at the social significance.") But here and there one can still pick out a few offerings that owe allegiance to happier traditions of picture-book art.

Among the present batch, I am particularly taken with *Peeping Taxi*, Mortimer's Cross, and Mortimer's Portrait on Glass - and it is an extremely funny book, where everything is pushed to the edge of hysterical farce, yet has a firm foundation in life. Where else would the Kalabar bats from the docks meet but Rumburgh Tower Heights, a gruesome office block put up at such great expense that no one has ever been able to afford to work in it? Not only a bat hotel, but a robber's hideout, a lair for kidnappers, and a wonderful spot for skateboarding.

Pirate radios, stolen taxis, holidays in Ireland, even tin figure largely. Great Aunt Owen Jones, who comes from Bangor to look after the family when Mum has flu is a splendid creation, and Quentin Blake has created a companion portrait to the terrifying Aunt Fidget. Workham Strong (who wore iron hats) from Russell Hoban's *Naked Men*, *They are slavers in spirit*, and Great Aunt Owen in her never-ending battle against germs and dirt, manages to repress the hitherto irrepressible Mortimer by giving him a bath.

Cyril Bonhamy is the hero (if you can describe him as such) of two earlier books, and he is one of those people who, quite innocently, are always in the midst of a huge misunderstanding. He is under the impression he can speak French, and that he is speaking it to the Director of the Public Library in Nice, where he is on holiday with the longest suffering wife in literature, Desirée. He is, in fact, speaking to the head of a gang of international crooks, who are under the impression that Cyril is one of them. How he comes to be on the run from the gendarmes across France and into Belgium, part of the time disguised as a housemaid and

No ravens by order

Mortimer's Cross
By Joan Aiken
(Cape, £5.50)

Cyril Bonhamy and the Great Drain Robbery
By Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy
(Cape, £4.95)

If you ever wondered what difference an illustrator made to the text, you have only to look at the work of Quentin Blake. With Joan Aiken, the fantastical wits are well matched; with Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy, the illustrations improve the text.

Mortimer the raven is well known to Jackanory watchers, and he lives with the Jones family in Rainwater Crescent in a dismal part of London - or it could be anywhere in the less than brave new world the planners have created. Ravens are large, threatening birds, and Mortimer is no exception. So awful is he that the Library Committee has gone to the trouble of having a special notice made which reads "No Ravens in the Library. By Order". Arabel Jones, the little girl who loves Mortimer, can never understand why people really don't care for a big black bird who causes nothing but trouble, and only says "Kaaark", or, alternatively "Nevermore".

There are three stories - *The Mystery of Mr Jones's Disappearance*, *Mortimer's Cross*, and *Mortimer's Portrait on Glass* - and it is an extremely funny book, where everything is pushed to the edge of hysterical farce, yet has a firm foundation in life. Where else would the Kalabar bats from the docks meet but Rumburgh Tower Heights, a gruesome office block put up at such great expense that no one has ever been able to afford to work in it? Not only a bat hotel, but a robber's hideout, a lair for kidnappers, and a wonderful spot for skateboarding.

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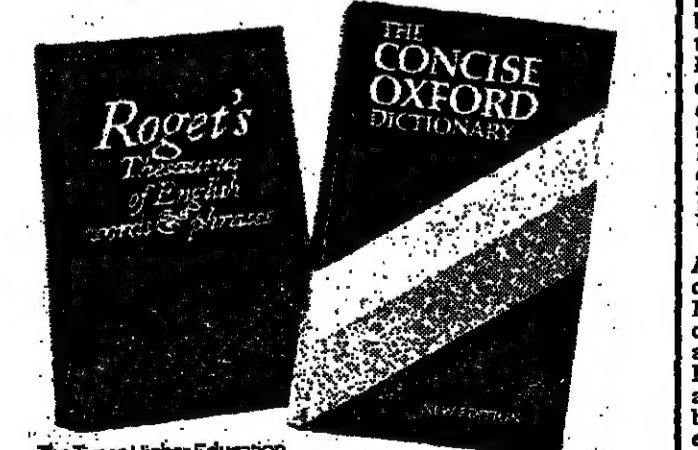
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part of the time smelting, very strongly of sewage is one of those things that neither he, nor indeed anyone else, can get absolutely straight. I found the exploits of Cyril just a bit laboured, the fun frantic rather than furious, and without the horrible logic of Mortimer and his habit.

Pinkie is a stout, serious child possessed of a strange gift for healing. Rather inept when it comes to everyday practicalities, she is befriended at school by Barry, an older boy, who mends her glasses and accompanies her on visits to her grandfather.

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Real not cardboard

Healer
By Peter Dickinson
(Gollancz, £5.95)

There is something about spiritualism, clairvoyance and astrology that makes them oddly unsatisfactory topics for novels: it is as if they were too slippery, too esoteric, even as backdrops. Heroes who are in touch with other powers are rarely very endearing.

Peter Dickinson, however, is a superb and reliable storyteller and deft enough with his characters in his new novel for younger readers, *Healer*, to manage not to make them suffer from finding themselves in a faith healing community. An ingredient of the supernatural in the background - increasingly present in his more recent work - in fact only serves to add tension to a fast moving, rather old fashioned, adventure story.

Pinkie is a stout, serious child possessed of a strange gift for healing. Rather inept when it comes to everyday practicalities, she is befriended at school by Barry, an older boy, who mends her glasses and accompanies her on visits to her grandfather.

Pinkie's talents are soon harnessed by a cult leader who marries her widowed mother and installs her - a prisoner - in a country house now turned into an extremely expensive healing centre. Barry, financed by Pinkie's anxious grandfather, tracks her down and engineers her escape. In a great finale, centering around a midnight chase, the two children make their get-away. But not forever: Peter Dickinson knows precisely where to brake the more improbable reaches of the imagination.

As with his books for adults *Healer* works. Pinkie and Barry are real people, with the fears and needs of ordinary children. It is their solidity that cleverly anchors a cast of adults whose behaviour is never wholly explained - but then, in a child's eye, is adult behaviour ever wholly explicable? It is precisely this twist that makes *Healer* such a clever book.

Run, Run as Fast as You Can seems for a while to be following the usual pattern of an American teenage novel. Eleven-year-old Hallie wants to be recognised as an adult within her family and wants to find a place for herself among the pretty and popular set of girls in her school class.

Half way through the book, however, the style makes a striking change when Hallie is confronted by the dreadful reality of her younger brother dying of cancer. She is poi-

Between stools

Dan Alone
By John Rowe Townsend
(Kestrel, £5.95)

In *Dan Alone* John Rowe Townsend returns to the Northern streets, the pub and the derelict hide-away of his first book *Gumble's Yard*. The genesis of that first novel lay in the lives of the "socially deprived" as observed by Townsend in his capacity as reporter for the *Manchester Guardian*, when the treatment of such subject matter was seen as pioneering.

Not so flip

Run, Run as Fast as You Can
By Mary Pope Osborne
(Patrick Hardy, £4.95)

Run, Run as Fast as You Can seems for a while to be following the usual pattern of an American teenage novel. Eleven-year-old Hallie wants to be recognised as an adult within her family and wants to find a place for herself among the pretty and popular set of girls in her school class.

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Celtic hinterland

The Dragonfly Years
By Mollie Hunter
(Hamish Hamilton, £5.50)

Is the cult of the teenage novel just an excuse for literary ladies to write up-market Mills & Boon romances? Mollie Hunter's *The Dragonfly Years* has a veneer of culture about it. Politics and religion in the Edinburgh of the 1930's are glimpsed. The heroine, Bridie McShane, first met in Miss Hunter's previous *A Sound of Chariots*, assures us constantly that she will subordinate everything to becoming a writer. But her love-life, which is the *fit* rouge of the story, is described with about the same conviction as occurs in most of the heart-throb paperbacks. No tension - and a prose style that suggests it is one of Bridie's early efforts to impress her night-school tutors.

Bludgeoned for laughs

Super Gran; Super Gran Rules O.K.
By Forrest Wilson
(Kestrel Books, £5.50 each)

The attractive thing about Granny Smith (the "ordinary" little, old, white-haired lady" who just happened to be sitting in the right place when struck by an amazing energizing ray) is that in her "Super" state - now apparently permanent - she combines many of the characteristics which children find both frightening and irresistible in each other and which tend to embarrass them - again with a touch of fascination - when found in the more non-standard sort of grown-up. Super Gran is irrepressible, boundlessly energetic, conceited, outspoken, inventive, dictatorial, well-intentioned, sometimes glib, optimistic, set in her ways, golden-hearted under that appalling tammy. There is a touch of the terrifying tartan army about her, but you know that, far from vandalizing other people's property on the way home from the ground, she would be out there knocking the vandals' heads together. And probably fracturing their skulls.

Of these three books, two are new hardback editions of old

Magical plots

The Genie and Her Bottle
By Nina Beachcroft
(Heinemann, £5.95)

Well Met by Witchlight; Under the Enchanter; A Visit to Folly Castle; The Wishing People
By Nina Beachcroft
(Dragon Paperbacks, £1.25 each)

When Alex spends the money for her school socks on a stoppered blue bottle in which she thinks she has seen something move, she sets in train a series of comic events which are no less enjoyable for being shaped to a known pattern. As in all Nina Beachcroft's fantasies, the electric possibilities of magic short-circuit on the damping probabilities of daily life. The genie that Alex and her brother Rob set loose - a languid, peremptory Arabian Nights beauty named Leila - is as much trouble to them as Jadis was to Tolly and Digory in C. S. Lewis's *The Magician's Nephew*. Though Leila announces "I am your willing slave", it is Alex whose tired arm must give Leila's luxuriant hair the requisite one hundred strokes of the brush.

As any of the children in Nina Beachcroft's books might complain, in instantly recognizable tones "It's not fair". Her magical plots have none of the portentous mysticism of many of the vogue fantasies of the sixties and seventies; instead she uses magic lightly to explore the theme of control. Her children are dependent - as children really but storybook children rarely are - on adults; and no amount of wishing, magical or otherwise, can make much difference. Rob's discovery that "paranets could be very disappointing", echoes through Nina Beachcroft's earlier books, now reissued as uniform paperbacks.

The magic, then, gives the children an arena in which they have the opportunity to order

their own lives; but their inexperience at making decisions in the real world translates into a fatal clumsiness at making wishes. The obnoxiousness of parents to whom magic seems only a form of play (which at one level it is) leaves them to sort out the mess for themselves; and, perhaps, to grow up enough to conclude with Martha and Tom at the end of *The Wishing People* that "We didn't really know what we truly wanted".

These are homely books: adventures neither in their subject matter nor in their treatment of it. The very familiarity of their tone and content makes them somehow forgettable; they do not linger in the mind. And yet in their refusal to play to the gallery, to make everything grand and wonderful and grand and terrible, their willingness to allow "the poetry" to wait if it conflicts with the chance of "a really good game of draughts", they achieve a quiet balance.

They offer, too, in place of originality, a refreshing liveliness of approach. Take, for instance, this splendid piece of invective delivered by the dilapidated good witch Mary at first sight of her enemy Mrs Black in *Well Met by Witchlight*: "Foxy piece of a mangy polecat! Pah! Come to see what your miserable hail and wind have done, you cracked silver of a cat's claw! You toad's nard."

In the course of some elemental battle between good and evil, this distributive probably delight the children who have chummed up with Mary; spat by a dirty, disreputable old woman at a smart middle-class lady in a leopard-skin coat, in the middle of the village street, it is an acute embarrassment. Like Alex and Rob's genie, Mary is a nuisance as well as a pleasure: the mundane world will not accommodate her. And in the end it is the mundane world, the world of draughts not poetry, "the richness of our ordinary happy family life", which enfolds the children and excludes Mary. As Rob puts it, with Leila safely corked up again and bobbing down the Thames, "Here I come, Lifer!"

Taken short

Drift
By Allan Baillie (Blackie, £4.95). Winner of the first Kathleen Fidler Award with a well-trie theme of two children washed out to sea on a packing-case. The action is interspersed with an undeveloped plot about Dad's failure as a farmer.

The Devil's Door-bell
By Anthony Morowitz (Patrick Hardy, £4.95). Looks like being an exhilarating comic thriller, but ends up tangled in a too-ambitious effort to unite the powers of nuclear fission and ancient witchcraft.

The Worm and the Toffenosed Princess, and other stories of Monsters. By Eva Ibbotson (Macmillan, £3.95). One of four books in a new series of re-invented or re-told folk tales. Although it makes fun of things like Krakens and Brollachans, which it should not, it has a liveliness of language that is less prominent in its three companions: *Beyond the Firelight* by Ann Lawrence, *The Boy who Turned into a Goat* by James Rioridan, and *A Small Pudding for Wee Gowrie* by William Mayne.

Super Gran; Super Gran Rules O.K. By Forrest Wilson (Kestrel Books, £5.50 each)

Super Gran is Magic By Forrest Wilson (Puffin Books, £1.00)

The attractive thing about Granny Smith (the "ordinary" little, old, white-haired lady" who just happened to be sitting in the right place when struck by an amazing energizing ray) is that in her "Super" state - now apparently permanent - she combines many of the characteristics which children find both frightening and irresistible in each other and which tend to embarrass them - again with a touch of fascination - when found in the more non-standard sort of grown-up. Super Gran is irrepressible, boundlessly energetic, conceited, outspoken, inventive, dictatorial, well-intentioned, sometimes glib, optimistic, set in her ways, golden-hearted under that appalling tammy. There is a touch of the terrifying tartan army about her, but you know that, far from vandalizing other people's property on the way home from the ground, she would be out there knocking the vandals' heads together. And probably fracturing their skulls.

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reappearance of an old love in the life of Rona Murray, and I suppose that it's published as a children's book because the action is viewed through the eyes of her fifteen-year old son, who wants to be a painter. He's a pretty non-committal guy who takes in his stride both the "winter visitor" and the affair which his sister is having with an Italian restaurateur, and there's a lot of Lingardish stuff about the everlasting disputes of the Belfast Irish. Yet again though, it's not hard in all this to see the weary stereotypes of romance, dressed up expensive in hard covers.

But if you look at another example of dire experiences in the Celtic hinterland, then you begin to see how stories should be written. Polly Devlin's *The Far Side of the Lough* (Gollancz, £5.50) is ostensibly a set of tales told by Mary-Ellen to a young girl in her charge. All are drawn from Mary-Ellen's life as the daughter of a poor fisherman on the coast of Lough Neagh - but far from being mollifying experiences they are instead with fierce life. Stark, terrible, comic things happen on the far side of that Lough. Much loved dolls are decapitated, pigs are gored before your very eyes; the Black and Tans wreck pot-smoking on a gentle old man. Mary-Ellen lives for the reader as neither of those Scottish narrators do, and her plain authentic speech brings her stories pulsingly to life.

This is something for which younger readers may not be entirely prepared. Do we leave them to get on with it, or is there an onus on parents, teachers and librarians to know more about this borderland of fiction that lies between, let us say, *Little Women* and *Lolita*?

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But Townsend the social pioneer is still in evidence in his creation of *Benji the Jew*, a peripatetic glazier despised in the streets for his race. Benji serves most aptly in these National Front days to inform young readers of the anti-Semitism of our recent past. That Benji should turn out to be Dan's father provokes real dramatic tension and an interesting graduation of feeling in the son from loathing and fear to pity and love.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Palace of varieties

Alexandra Palace is to rise again. Louis Bizat, who administers the £30m trust set up to look after the building after it was gutted by fire in 1980, is jubilant that permission has been granted for redevelopment as an exhibition and leisure centre. The decision comes almost two years after a public inquiry which Bizat calls "the most uninteresting ever held". It attracted no more than four observers throughout, lasted six months, and had as its highpoint Bizat's joking suggestion that a complex of sex shops might make the operation commercially viable. This was taken seriously, but the resulting pandemonium went unreported because the press had long since ceased attending.

Spoilt rare bit

There is more troublesome news of a burnt building in Wales, the hotel at Portmeirion by Clough Williams-Ellis. After a succession of retrospective applications for planning permission for repairs already carried out in what conservationists consider an "unsatisfactory, crude and piecemeal" way, the Victorian Society has begged the Welsh Office to halt all work until a comprehensive restoration scheme has been approved. Teresa Sladen, of the Victorian Society, says: "The local authority and the National Park office simply do not understand the aesthetic complaints we are raising with them. We have given up writing to Gwynedd County Council, and now we find the Welsh Office never replies." Clough Williams-Ellis did not bother much with planning authorities when creating the eccentric Italianate village of which the hotel is part, but then, a glance at the shoddy cafeteria erected amid his now listed buildings shows that his successors have inherited none of his sensitivity.

● An American has invented the vending machine in reverse. You put empty beer cans in, and get 24 cents out. This uncanny ecological improvement has gone into operation in South Carolina.

Own gaol

Arthur Logan Petch retires as chairman of industrial tribunals in England and Wales next month. He holds a unique legal distinction. He once defended the man who burgled his house. Despite a strong plea in mitigation, praised by the judge, the man went to prison.

BARRY FANTONI



"Gerald's so brave. He picked up our old ironing board and just threw it on the tip."

Pawn and mate

The suspicions against President Marcos excited by the murder of Benigno Aquino and the immediate despatch of his assassin puts the President in the same class as Alexander the Great. Alexander's father, Philip II of Macedonia, was stabbed by a pawn called Pausanias while watching a boxing match. The assassin was the son of a Greek mercenary. Pausanias was immediately captured and killed, and suspicion of having inspired his crime fell upon Alexander. The guilty party was more probably his mother, Olympias. Please do not read that to mean that I think Mrs Marcos fixed this one.

Fore and after

Seven well-known thriller writers have formed their own TV production company, and worked a surprise into the announcement of the fact. Philip Mackie, who scripted *Malice Aforethought*, is described by Hoagland Thrillers as "one of the boys with toxic talents that went into his like *Malice Aforethought*". Is this a sequel or just a mini-series?

Devising a symbol for the European Currency Unit (ECU), which shares its name with an obsolete French coin and is a notional composite of all EEC currencies except the Greek drachma, is too easy for my readers. The two popular solutions were monograms of ECU, and the Greek E with a cancelling stroke to symbolize Greece's exclusion. Peter Grant suggested the Old English letter, thorn, "to immortalize the ineffably absurd Gaston Thorn and remind other members that Britain will continue to be a thorn in their flesh"; D. A. Johnson suggested a reversed ampersand because the money would go in "back-and-forth", and Colin Brown thought a V sign appropriate. The winner, though, is Anne Ochaner whose symbol has Greek E facing both ways (as any EEC symbol should), can be typed using brackets and a dash, and since the ECU does not exist as note or coin, shows, she suggests, that "the ECU is a pun currency at which we should draw the line". PHS

Cathy comes back for a handout

by David Walker

Faintly at first but unmistakably comes the noise of a lobby jirring itself to battle for extra public expenditure.

Books, heart-rending stories in Sunday newspapers, a television series *Breadline Britain*, all proclaim that the poverty lobby is reorganizing. Parallel moves on the public housing front suggest that Cathy is likely to come home again in the mid-1980s, too.

A former *New Society* journalist, Paul Harrison, packages himself as a latterday Mayhew to penetrate darkest Stoke Newington and in a new Penguin treatise to us an emotional account of this hidden Third World on our affluent doorsteps. There is "decay... dereliction... violent theft... massive levels of social need" and nary a Clissold Park gentrifier in sight.

A survey is published telling us of unknown reservoirs of poverty: 7,000,000 Britons do not know where the next instalment on their colour television rental is coming from. Nearly 12,000,000 people (albeit on a sample of 1,174) are classified as sometimes poor.

But does this negate the untiring efforts of the poverty campaigners since the 1960s when the existence of primary poverty, despite the welfare state, was first given widespread publicity? Of course not: the MORI poll reported subjective assessments of the elements of a reasonable standard of living. People living on yesterday's moderate standards are today's "new poor". In fact, poverty campaigners of the Frank Field stamp have - with political allies from across the spectrum - made significant progress in alleviating primary deprivation.

*Inside the Inner City, £3.95

What is happening now is only marginally connected with the institutionalized poverty groups. Such bodies as the Child Poverty Action Group have taken on an establishment colouring; indeed CPAG's Ruth Lister seems positively scholarly in her encyclopaedic knowledge of the multi-volumed intricacies of social security.

Instead there are signs of a spill-over from the disarray of the Labour Party. The educated, altruistic middle class's moral indignation is increasingly denied the opportunities once provided by the Labour Party for political activism. Single-issue campaigning thus beckons attractive and, to be sure, the poor are always with us.

Objectively, Britain remains a society where income and life chances are unequal, where the gross facts of social disorganization (the single-parent families, the unattached elderly) and deprivation (the physical state of the core of private rented housing, the conditions of existence where the breadwinner is long-term unemployed) are stubbornly unyielding.

These gross facts might, with time, respond to detailed social policies of a type that Margaret Thatcher's government has been singularly unwilling to develop; its priorities seem to have been merely expenditure control by chopping back demand-led outlays. Absent has been hard thinking about "problem" families, the care of children in low income environments and, most important, how to deliver services to such families. All that has been visible have, on the one hand, been the facile

mottos evidenced in the Family Policy Group's discussions and, on the other, a policy towards local authorities that implausibly seeks to kill off high-spending without hurting the social services that the high spending councils deliver.

But constructive social policy is one thing; emotional campaigns another. According to the MORI poll published last weekend the British public would support a 1p rise in income tax, presumably to "cure" poverty. This is simple-heartedness carried too far: enhanced cash handouts may be part of the solution for some poor people but part only. The "problem" of poverty in Britain is a tissue of inadequacy and even fecklessness as well as material want. It is a political problem, too, and not the kind to be solved by increasing the rate support grant to Hackney Borough Council. Council housing and council inefficiency are themselves part of the problem.

Would-be poverty campaigners would do well to turn up the study published last year by the Social Science Research Council on cycles of deprivation. One finding was the need for an intensive policy for families which recognized that many poor people are inadequate and need - though the whole ethos of 1960s-style social work is against this - to be taught the virtues of thrift.

Affecting vignettes of life among the Hackney poor do not of themselves make a case for increased social security payments. They might, instead, suggest that the women of poor families need help and guidance on household management - a conclusion that no doubt smacks too much of the Grantham corner shop to make it acceptable to the morally indignant poverty lobby.

Richard Owen on the symbolic obstacle to Soviet economic progress

Andropov tries to jump the great Russian queue

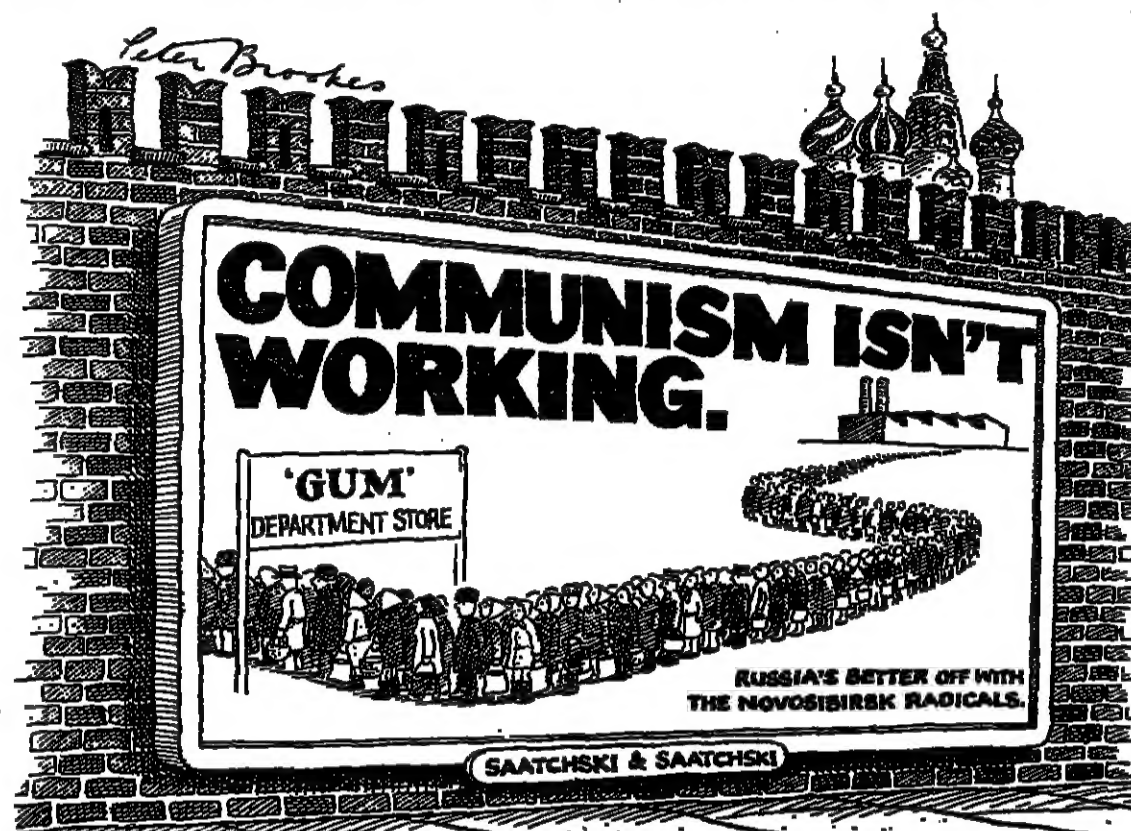
Moscow Rounding the corner from *The Times* office the other day I came across a queue three feet deep stretching for several blocks. Lucky (and patient) customers at the head of the queue were making off with their rare booty: toilet paper. Some carried unmanageable bundles, others were festooned with it. The following day the queue was still there, shuffling forward.

The queue - any queue - is a perfect illustration of what Andropov is up against, an economist friend remarked. "Despite all our achievements, 65 years after the revolution we still cannot produce basic commodities. We are always laying the basis for future abundance while spending our daily lives in an endless search for everyday goods."

Queuing, together with absenteeism, is the most obvious sign of Russia's economic difficulties. The two are connected. Under a new law on labour discipline - Mr Andropov's hallmark - anyone found absent from his place of work for more than three hours a day is deemed absent for a day, and anyone absent for a day without good cause forfeits a day of holiday entitlement. Since three hours in a queue is not all that unusual, many Soviet factory and office workers are trapped. If they take time off to buy shoes or sausage, they risk a stiff penalty, including having to pay compensation for loss of production at work; but if they do not take their place in the queue the family goes unfed or unshod.

Mr Andropov's answer is that if all workers stayed at their benches or desks and made more effort, the economy would grow to the point where supply would finally catch up with demand, and the queues would melt away.

Many Russians are sceptical, including the Kremlin advisers who recently leaked a damaging report on the Soviet economy to the western press (previously unheard-of). All senior economists from the elite research centre at Akademgorodok in Novosibirsk, the authors came to the conclusion that the Soviet economy needed thorough



overhaul if it was to be transformed from a fundamentally Stalinist system of central control into a sensitive economic mechanism attuned to workers' and consumers' needs and wishes. "Tackle the cause, not the symptoms," was the message from Novosibirsk.

This apparently common sense recommendation was put on one side as too radical after a top-level conference in April. Instead, the Kremlin announced a "limited economic experiment" in five selected industries from next January, giving plant managers vaguely defined powers over budget and manning, and with a nod in the direction of profit and loss accounting.

The reformers and their Kremlin allies have come up against the immovable object on which all Soviet reformers sooner or later stub their toes: the entrenched bureaucracy. Mr Andropov has a sharp brain, and is slowly unfolding a long-term strategy which has been forming in his mind since he had access to the real facts of economic life as head of the KGB. But the average economic administrator is neither as sharp nor as perceptive, and is more concerned to keep his largely unnecessary job than to stimulate change and growth.

It is of course not out of the question - and there are whispers to this effect in Moscow - that the Novosibirsk radicals' allies include Mr Andropov himself. Leaks do not

happen by chance, least of all in the Soviet Union. Mr Nikolai Baibakov, Russia's chief state planner as head of Gosplan for nearly 20 years, gave a press conference in which he soft-pedalled the new measures, on the grounds that the economy was too large to restructure swiftly, and sought to minimize the significance of the leaked report. Yet only two days before, in a speech to party veterans, Mr Andropov had spoken of reforms stretching well into the next five year plan. Using language very close to that of the document, he criticized "half-measures" which had failed to overcome "accumulated inertia".

One observer of the Soviet scene remarked: "Nobody looking at Mr Baibakov could fail to think of accumulated inertia." Brezhnev's officials point out that Mr Brezhnev also called for efficiency and labour discipline, but omit to add that Mr Andropov is doing something about it, in the face of opposition from Brezhnevites.

If Mr Andropov does succeed where others have failed, it will be because he is skillfully combining gradual reform with a tough crack-down on indiscipline. Mr Andropov has set an example by staying at his desk through much of the summer. But how far is he able or willing to go?

There have been some hints in the Soviet press that a little private enterprise here and there might not be a bad thing. One senior

economic official even suggested to me that a little unemployment in the grossly overmanned socialist economy would do no harm. Such unorthodox thoughts are clearly inspired by the dismal performance of an economy with declining growth rates (the growth rate target this year is only 3.2 per cent).

The reality remains that - as an Armenian economist disclosed in the theoretical journal *Kommunist* in June - the economic bureaucracy is colossal, with 64 ministries and 23 state committees dealing with all details of planning and production. "It is high time to reexamine the organization and management of the entire industrial complex," *Kommunist* declared. "It is not possible to continue multiplying ministries."

Perhaps not. Many Muscovites in the queues must have wondered why 64 ministries could not between them arrange for the production of toilet paper in the right quantities at the right time. On the other hand, neither *Kommunist* nor Mr Andropov, nor the Novosibirsk reformers have yet told us how Thatcherite principles of cost-effectiveness and streamlining can be applied to Russia without either undermining the ideological purity of Marxism or Leninism (sternly guarded by Mr Andropov himself) or provoking a counter-revolution from the kind of managers who know how to talk about efficiency but not how to achieve it.

Gas prices: too hot for the government

If there were a ballot among rank-and-file Conservative MPs about the issues that caused them most grief during the last election campaign, gas prices would undoubtedly be in their top three. The Government's decision in 1979 to order the already highly profitable British Gas Corporation to double its domestic tariffs over a three-year period is one that most voters have never begun to comprehend - and it is no secret that many backbenchers think privately that the voters are right. This week's report from the accountants Deloitte, Haskins and Sells on efficiency at British Gas will therefore reopen sensitive wounds with its conclusion that the corporation is still undercharging its customers and not doing enough to maximize its profits, a criticism that is the exact reverse of the one that the gas men normally spend their time answering.

There is no doubt, however, that the accountants have virtue - though not political expediency - on their side. The core of their argument is that the corporation, as a monopoly supplier without the benefit of market competition, should be basing its pricing policy on the costs it faces for its newest supplies (the so-called marginal cost) rather than on the actual average cost it happens to be paying on its existing and artificially depressed cheap North Sea supplies.

This principle, incomprehensible as it may be to the man in the street, has a long and respectable pedigree. It was upheld, for example, by the Price Commission in 1979, and follows closely the guidelines for nationalized industry pricing laid down by the 1967 and 1978 White Papers on the state industries. It is also the one followed in general terms by British Gas itself. Its rationale is that the only way to ensure that the country's valuable natural resources should be exploited in the most economical way is to give the right price signals about its future cost to consumers.

All the households which have switched to gas central heating or gas cookers in the last decade should not be doing so - or so the argument goes - in the mistaken belief that gas is going to maintain its 25 per cent cost advantage over other forms of fuel for the foreseeable future.

This is clearly not so. Gas is becoming more expensive to buy. British Gas is having to pay four or five times what it paid for early North Sea supplies to buy new quantities from both UK and Norwegian suppliers in the North Sea.

Sir Denis Rooke, the corporation's chairman, has already warned that domestic gas bills are likely to have to rise by more than the rate of inflation over the rest of the 1980s. If it serves to impress this fact

upon potential consumers, the Deloitte report will not have been in vain.

The problem is that acknowledging a principle is one thing, implementing it quite another. For a start, even the experts cannot agree on what the proper price of gas should be, even if the marginal cost principle is accepted. Economists and Treasury officials both say snuffily that the marginal cost of gas is relatively easier to establish, compared with that of, say, electricity.

All the rough-and-ready indicators of the marginal cost - the price British Gas pays for its most expensive Norwegian imports, or the length of queues of customers wishing to switch from oil to gas - confirm that gas is under-priced on this basis. But the corporation, the Government and outside economists all have different opinions about how fast the ground should be made up. For example, Mr David Howell, the former Energy Secretary who was responsible for the three-year crash programme of price rises, now says that enough is enough and prices should be frozen.

The Government is further complicating the situation by intervening in the corporation's affairs. Its financial targets for the industry are based on short-term public sector financial considerations

rather than long-term requirements of the business. Political intervention in gas pricing also has a long pedigree: the Labour government raised prices quite unnecessarily in 1977 to raise £100m towards its International Monetary Fund rescue package, then froze them for electoral advantage ahead of the 1979 election. This Tory government initially continued the freeze, then launched its price-rise programme.

It is hard to deny the conclusion of the Deloitte report that British Gas should be told exactly what its pricing strategy should be - regardless of short-term political interest - and then required to stick to it. This is because the pricing of gas has such extensive ramifications on the economy as a whole, including the rate of inflation and government revenues. It also has a direct bearing on the rate at which the country's gas reserves are being depleted.

Politicians being politicians, it is hard to believe however that they will ever come round to the principle that gas pricing should be taken out of the political arena. For that reason, the report may prove in the end to be no more than another silly season headline.

Jonathan Davis
Financial Correspondent

Matthew Parris

Taking the polite out of politician

Every age has its conventional wisdoms, most of them wrong. The really major idiocies are usually a matter of consensus between worthy men of all parties. The Armada, the Maginot Line and the tower block, the slave trade, the Test Act, our former immigration policy and the British Motor Corporation; the window tax, the Location of Offices Bureau and the reorganization of local government... all have commanded the respect among politicians that leeches used to command among the medical profession. I expect there was a time when one had only to call "Leeches!" from the backbenches in Parliament to elicit a resounding "Hear, Hear!" from both sides of the House. Now, one would be ordered to withdraw.

I dare say our age is the first to be completely free from delusion. However, just on the off chance that it is not, I wonder whether we are better-equipped than our forebears to seek and destroy can? Take the House of Commons. We enjoy a system of constituency representation which appoints 650 counsel for the defence, but no prosecutors. Human nature inclines the experts in any field to be its protagonists, and, though it is true that any MP could spend his time tearing into his constituents, the sacred cows of their material interests, he likely to do what he will be rewarded or thanked for doing. One is thanked, generally, for helping people.

In theory, of course, wherever resources are finite it should follow that to defend one interest is to oppose another. According to his theory, one's enthusiasm for a theatre museum would diminish as one's desire to augment the war widows' pension increased. But it does not seem to work that way. All the pressures are towards an MP promoting "his" constituents and "his" area of special interest. Who, then, will oppose them?

Anne Sofer suggested in these columns that we ask voters whom they would particularly not want to represent them. I expect she thinks this should count against a candidate but I wonder whether it could not count in his favour? Should we not balance our regular MPs with an elite cadre of members - anti-MPs if you like - chosen for the numbers of voters they had estranged and the depth of offence they had caused: members driven remorselessly on by a need to be swept back into power, at the election, on a tide of anger and public loathing?

As things stand, important arguments are left prudently unheard. There is a case, for instance, against all regional policy - but we shall not hear it from the regional members. "None of your business" I remember an inner-city colleague retorting when, from my green and landlocked constituency I asked at deckhand redecoration schemes. There is an argument about agricultural subsidy - but why master the mysteries of the green farmers? And, if you do, why knock subsidy?

Now it may be objected that the official Opposition was a device designed to debunk the Government. Certainly the parties debunk each other but this is a diversion, a

substitute, for questioning the idiotic complacencies on which there is consensus between the parties.

Perhaps when the party system was based more clearly on class hatred and class loyalty, politicians could be more uninhibitedly offensive to the people, rather than each other. Then, perhaps, you tried to please only your own side. Now, we have to please everybody. The Labour Party is fading. The Liberal Party is in favour of everything except dog litter: the SDP wants to help everyone; while the Tories, who still occasionally turn things down, do so reluctantly.

We are in principle hostile to nothing except crime, Russia and organized labour. When we are not calling other politicians liars and cheats we are writing to our constituents thanking them for their views about the plight of social-workers/ librarians/baby seals, expressing ourselves conscious of their deep and understandable concern, while only reminding them of the practical limits to our powers. Opposition MPs do the same. It is now really the Treasury which effectively shoulders the burden of official Opposition. But it is wrong that a handful of ministers, necessarily inept in all the worthwhile proposals that have to be resisted, should be left to provide the counter-argument. They are reduced to blocking their ears and shouting "Sorry - no cash!" It leads to the spreading and shallow assumption that the only reason for the Government's not doing more is shortage of money. It is inadequate argument but it is all that a Treasury Minister is equipped to deploy.

From among my anti-MPs, therefore, will be chosen anti-ministers. These will be appointed with special areas of responsibility and promoted for their vigour in beating back the waves of sentimental wretchedness that it is a minister's job to reflect and amplify.

Debatable will be marked by speech after speech from anti-ministers opposed, successively, to shipbuilding, mining, transport and the arts, while my anti-minister for trade will call for ever-more massive foreign dumping in Britain, so that we can get goods cheaply. Special anti-ministers will be appointed, on an *ad hoc* basis, to oppose the West Midlands, moorland preservation and children's play. My anti-foreign minister will beg the Soviet Union to occupy Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

Readers will, no doubt correctly, judge me fanciful. Perhaps I overstate the case. But I envisage a Parliament in which things are said which are not now said which ought to be said, but which it is to nobody's present advantage to say.

The real enemy in Britain never was Marxism and is clearly not Marxism today. The real enemy is indulgence, complacency and cant. Cant is what is used to justify indulgence and complacency. Ministers must be found to oppose it. The more effectively they do so, the more unpopular they will be. Therefore, they must be chosen, retained and promoted for their unpopularity. I am off to the Sahara to brood on this.

The author is Conservative MP for West Derbyshire.

Jonathan Sale

Down to grass tracks with Urban Man

So much for the second home. That's it for 1983, which sees the end of a decade of happy second-home ownership. We look forward to the next 10 years of holidays in a structure that is free from rats, mortgages, dry rot and political disapproval. Meanwhile, into the loft goes the second home.

Our tent is a godsend in canvas (unlike the house which is merely a folly). Each year it grows a little: an extra sleeping compartment, an awning. Yet all it needs is six square yards or so of grass, hired for a fortnight a year. I think of it as a form of time-sharing. We own the fabric, rent the earth.

Each year, on the first day of the school holidays, a cheer echoes around the car as the trailer slips over the River Tamar and into Cornwall. This is generally agreed to be the moment at which we cease to be residents of bricks and mortar, and start to be dwellers under canvas. Dr Jekyll has become Mr Hyde, or perhaps it is the other way round. House Man has become Tent Man.

House Man puts off investigating the pattering of rainwater under the tiles until the decibel count goes over the pain threshold; Tent Man has the poles in position before the keys are out of the ignition. House Man tells House Wife to get up the ladder herself if the roof worries her that much. Tent Man cheerfully unpegs the guy-ropes and, to please Tent Wife, shifts the whole thing a foot and a half to the left. House Man slumbers of a morning like Rip Van Winkle on Moggi; Tent Man is up first thing to make tea for Tent Wife and breakfast for Tent Kids, whereupon he starts on sandwiches for lunch on the beach.

House Man has two showers a day and covers himself in something high-powered by Brut bought in an Amnesty jumble sale. Tent Man does two swims a day and tells Tent Wife that's good enough. (Five years ago, a whole new shower wing was added to the camp-site's toilet block; some of us have never been in it.)

House Man takes his bicycle everywhere, even into friends' flats, so that his feet have forgotten how to move except with a circular motion. Tent Man stuffs a mountain-bike, rucksack with towels, food and jumpers, heaves Tent Toddler upon his shoulders and

strides off along the lengthy track to the beach. House Man is never without the sound of one of his radios, which range from the tuner of the stereo system to a tiny model disguised as a packet of digestive biscuits. Tent Man appreciates silence so much that he catches himself trying to shush the seagulls.

House Man counts calories and sugar content; he occasionally writes caustic restaurant reviews. Tent Man finds grass in the tea, tea in the mussels and dead wasps in everything; he consumes it all. (So does Tent Sister-in-Law, dropping in from the next tent but one at supper time and remarking, "Ah, pigswill," before accepting a trough, or plate, of the thrown-together repast.)

House Man spends his evenings vaguely looking for the drill and not putting up shelves, which he finds very weirding. Tent Man often spends afternoons watching grass grow on dunes, but sometimes is not quite so energetic. House Man washes what is left of his hair twice a week. Tent Man never touches shampoo (or even a comb) for a whole fortnight - see "swims" above.

Tent Man meets fellow Tent Folk while filling his water-carrier at the tap, like an African villager at the water-hole. House Man goes for days without exchanging a word with the neighbours, and then it is mainly political abuse with the man at Number 35. Tent Man relishes the feel of bare earth and sand on his toes. House Man walks on towels, bare feet from the car to the gate, only to be reminded that urban dogs have made this a risky procedure.

Tent Man, Wife, Sister-in-Law and Husband have discovered a nudist beach, where they sunbathe without embarrassment and surf cautiously. House Man is throttled by his tie but clings to it in case important people walk into his office; they never do, at least not without knocking. Tent Man has no mirror. House Man looks in one and discovers that at the end of his holiday, his nose had begun to peel like anything.

House Man's favourite sight is the bridge at the River Tamar, showing travellers from east to west that Cornwall is at hand, or at wheel. Tent Man, reluctantly proceeding from west to east, hates it.

صكز امت الاصل



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DETENTION BY ERROR

Earlier this month a mentally handicapped patient who had been sent to Rampton Hospital 11 years ago as a boy of sixteen was released on the instructions of a Mental Health Review Tribunal, and became a voluntary in-patient at a mental hospital in his home town. The chairman of the tribunal took the unusual step of making public a statement in which he made clear that the patient, Mr Lyle Clarke, would have been unlikely on present guidelines to be accepted as a suitable patient for Rampton. He added that after the tribunal's original decision last May that he should be released, it was discovered that a number of bizarre allegations in his confidential medical record were exaggerated or wholly untrue. Whether by malice, negligence or innocent oversight, he had been the victim of a gross injustice.

The discovery was made by an ironic chance. After the tribunal's first decision, details apparently calculated to arouse public alarm about Mr Clarke's impending release were leaked to the press. It was partly because of this publication of allegations which had apparently been unknown to Mr Clarke or his family that it became possible to refute them and show that an even greater injustice had been done to him than had appeared at first.

The case is a prompt vindication of this year's reforms of the law on the review of the cases of compulsorily detained mental patients. The new system ensures that their cases should be considered by independent tri-

butals at least every three years, and not to sink unexamined into an institutional dead-end if the patient himself lacks the initiative to seek a hearing. The extension of legal aid to these tribunals now allows a patient to be legally represented.

Mr Clarke's case is one of the first of many to be heard in the next few months. He had sought tribunal hearings before, in 1973 and 1975, but since then he had apparently given up hope to such an extent that he was initially reluctant to appear this year. His entire adult life has, after all, been spent at Rampton. In the earlier hearings he presumably represented himself, and since he was apparently unaware of the false charges in his records (which may be withheld from a patient if it is considered medically desirable) it is no wonder that he failed. Similarly, the solicitor presenting his case in May would have been unable to refer them to the patient himself and discover that they were denied.

Unlike many Rampton patients, Mr Clarke was not sent there for offences proved in court, though there was an initial court hearing connected with his legal guardianship. Northamptonshire County Council, now his legal guardian, initially opposed his release, partly because it claimed it had no suitable accommodation for him. As the public authority which would have to bear the cost and possible political odium if he were released, the county was exposed to an awkward potential conflict of interest. The inadequacy of accommodation

outside hospital for the rehabilitation of mental patients is an important side-issue in the case: it is not enough to improve the machinery if the means are absent.

If the law had not been changed, Mr Clarke might have been robbed of his liberty for far longer, and might have sunk into an institutionalized state where he could no longer have benefited even if the wrong done to him had been discovered. But the new system does not guarantee that similar injustices will necessarily be uncovered, or that new ones will not occur. It is easy to envisage circumstances in which false information might even now block a patient's release and never become known to those in a position to contest it. Errors can creep into the record without any question of malice, through unclear noting of hearsay or patient's fantasy.

The facts of the present case remain worryingly obscure. Mr Clarke's family and Mind, the national association for mental health, have asked the Government for an inquiry, whether or not there is evidence of malice—even more, perhaps, if there is none—to establish what went wrong and whether measures are needed to prevent it happening again. In the meantime, tribunals should work in full awareness of the lessons of the case, and in particular consider the status of the evidence before them. Where it is held to be medically unavoidable to withhold important evidence from a patient, that evidence should be treated with special care.

SANCTIONS NEED CONCERTING

The signing in Moscow today of a new five-year grain agreement between the United States and the USSR may mark a fresh approach by Washington to the thorny question of economic sanctions, but it certainly does not end the heated debate on how best to coordinate policy on East-West trade. There is a recent European industry suffered from US sanctions on the Siberian gas pipeline, in the grain deal US domestic politics weighed more heavily than the interests of the Alliance. West European governments, however, are themselves criticized for failing to cooperate on the pipeline issue, laying their countries open to the danger of depending on the USSR for a significant part of their energy supplies. Moreover, they are prepared to subsidize the sale of EEC butter to the USSR.

Of course governments must promote the prosperity of their countries through trade, and a secure military defence is possible only on the basis of a sound economy. President Reagan cannot disregard the farmers of the Mid-West who suffered from the export embargo imposed in 1980 after the invasion of Afghanistan. Mrs Thatcher was under similar pressures when Washington blocked shipments of US technology to the Siberian pipeline, hitting British suppliers of compressor station equipment. Even the EEC butter sales which certainly benefited the

USSR and the millionaire middleman, also had some advantages for the taxpayers in saved storage costs.

Sanctions have a role in Nato policy, however, whether the aim is to encourage the Soviet leaders to behave better towards dissidents, Poles and Afghans, or whether it is no more than the understandable desire to prevent a hostile state becoming militarily or economically stronger than we are. But to serve any purpose they must be effective, and to be effective they should be applied in a less piecemeal fashion than hitherto.

The Soviet authorities, reaping some advantage from their centralized political and economic control, derive great satisfaction from playing one Nato ally against another, and encouraging firms—often from the same country—to undercut each other. Grain sanctions lose impact when Canada, or a non-Nato source such as Argentina, offers alternative supplies. Just before the arrival in Moscow of Mr John Block, the US Secretary of Agriculture, Soviet officials told visiting Congressmen that any grain imports beyond the new annual minimum of nine million tons would not be bought from the USA unless balanced by the purchase of Soviet goods.

The ban on exporting Caterpillar pipelaying tractors to the USSR was rendered ineffective by Japan's Komatsu Company

snatching the lost orders, and now President Reagan has decided to remove the embargo which was imposed in response to the 1978 dissident trials. Again, the advisers defending domestic economic interests prevailed over those concerned with strategic defence. Had Japan agreed to cooperate, the argument for the sanctions would have been stronger.

Strengthening and extending the competence of the Coordinating Committee charged with restricting exports of strategic materials and equipment to communist countries (COCOM) would be a constructive step in avoiding such conflicts of interest in future. Tokyo, concerned at the Soviet military buildup in the Pacific area, is more interested than before in such cooperation. The debate on sanctions is growing particularly sharp in Washington; the Export Administration Act expires on 30 September, and amendments promoted by commercial interests could weaken the President's power to impose export bans.

The outcome of this debate will clearly be of concern to West European countries also. But to claim that our sovereignty is at stake in disputes such as that over the pipeline is to exaggerate; achieving a reasonable basis for cooperation on matters of such importance is worth some compromise in economic independence.

BOWLING ALONG THE ROAD

A form of locomotion favoured by Toad and B Wooster must be good. So Ford thinks, for it has re-invented the convertible in a version of the Escort.

Convertibles are for motoring, which is distinct from driving much as boating is from rowing, or ping-pong from table-tennis. Motoring is an end in itself. The destination, the time taken, the quality of the radio reception, the registration number, the operational condition of the cigar lighter, all are secondary to the pure sensation of bowling along the road. As the sensation is keener if nothing stands between motorist and hedgerow except a current of warm air, your convertible is the thing.

Toad, it is true, was an exponent of the more aggressive, the "roadster" school of motoring. Even Bertie Wooster, under the stress of emotion, would

make the two-seater sing. But Toad was vainglorious, and the two-seater cooled down when Jeeves took the controls. Properly applied, convertibles are for use in pottering, not pace.

Since the collapsible Morris Minor went out of production years ago the only "popular" model available has been a rather pricey Beetle job from Germany. So for the benefit of a new generation of motorists we recall the salient points of the convertible.

Contrary to the indications of common sense the wind hits you in the back of the neck, not on the brow. This obtains whether you are going backwards or forwards. It blows the hair over the eyes. If the hair is worn at fashionable length it is necessary to carry a McEneaney fillet or snood in the glove compartment. In winter a top coat should be

worn. There is no known method of sealing a convertible against draughts; nor, eventually, against water. Sooner or later an umbrella becomes part of the standard equipment.

The back seat is the best place on a hot day. It cannot be recommended in other conditions.

Smell is the great bonus of open-skies motoring—the smell of pine woods, blossom, showers on the dust, the early hours of a summer's night. Since no other motor vehicle smells nice, choose deserted roads.

On motorways the only lane fit for use by a convertible is the hard shoulder. Since that is out of bounds, an alternative route should be found.

Motoring proper is at its best on a warm day in June when the bean fields are in flower and scenting the lanes. Avoid oil seed rape.

The Turkish question

From Sir Bernard Burrows
Sir, Your criticism of the current Turkish constitutional process (leader, August 15) omits important historical considerations. Among the reasons for the state of anarchy in Turkey prior to the assumption of power by the armed forces in 1980 were two which are relevant to the situation today.

The constitution introduced after the military government of 1960-61 contained so many checks and balances on the executive as to make firm government almost impossible. In particular, parliament could only be dissolved before the expiry of its full term if a majority of deputies voted for this. Not surprisingly this never happened and the result was a

continuing stalemate between the two main parties.

The politicians then in power were unable to agree on the means of suppressing terrorism of the right and left which was making life intolerable for the ordinary citizen. Instead they took it in turns to make deals with disreputable fringe parties in order to obtain or retain in power.

This led, amongst other things, to the politicization of the police force and recurrent gang warfare in the universities. It is hardly surprising that the present regime should seek to delay the re-entry of such politicians into political life.

The previous restorations of parliamentary democracy in Turkey may be regarded with hindsight as having been too rapid and doctri-

nair. The present process is deliberately slower and more gradual, in the hope that it may be longer lasting and not require another military intervention in 10 years' time.

The resulting political system will not be perfect—but what system is? Nor will the means of achieving it be free from blemish, but comment from outside is more likely to be of value if it gives due weight to the traumatic experience which Turkey underwent in the late Seventies, and the widespread desire in the country that this experience should not be repeated.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD BURROWS,
Steep Farm,
Petersfield,
Hampshire.

Growing doubt on youth training

From the Director of Youthaid
Sir, Michael Howard's letter (August 18) about the rejected plan for Kent County Council to provide 500 Youth Training Scheme places is so misleading that those less tolerant than I would call it venetian.

The rejected scheme proposed to take on 500 school leavers at £25 a week to learn, among other things, catering skills and gardening. In the past Kent have taken on some school leavers each year into trainee grades such as cadet cook or parks department trainee. Last year they took on 28, in 1981 it was 50.

These programmes for fully paid youngsters are now abandoned in favour of taking on more young people, but at Government, not county, expense. And they will be paid only the "allowance" of £25 instead of the full pay of £45.37.

A year from now, a lucky 40 of these 500 will be taken on as 17-year-old employees. But as a result few or no 17-year-olds will be taken on direct.

No wonder the trade unions involved saw this proposal as a way of reducing, not increasing, youth employment and a lengthy way of selecting 17-year-olds at public expense. And no wonder the Manpower Services Commission are board, with employers and officials on it too, backed them and rejected the scheme.

A predecessor of the Youth Training Scheme was called Work Experience on Employers' Premises. A survey of employers involved found that about 30 per cent went taking on Government-subsidized trainees instead of full-priced labour. The Kent experience confirms growing fears that the Youth Training Scheme will be no better. With 300,000 places at employers' premises, that would represent 90,000 lost jobs. Hardly an "avenue of opportunity" for the unemployed.

Of course, the cancellation of Kent has caused disappointment. My niece was one let down. But Kent County Council had no right to tell before the people of the scheme before it had been approved by the MSC area board. It is Kent, not the unions, that bears the responsibility for the disappointment. And all of the disappointed youngsters will be found a place elsewhere.

I take up my post at Youthaid officially on September 5. But already my desk is piled high with reports of serious problems with the Youth Training Scheme. None of them concerns the attitudes of the trade unions. Michael Howard should consider all the evidence before making his case. Politicians really should be kept out of jobs for school leavers.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL LEWIS, Director,
Youthaid,
9 Poland Street, W1,
August 22.

Paid jobs for all

From Professor P. R. G. Layard
Sir, Alan Eden-Green (August 3) has advocated work-sharing as a solution to the unemployment problem. The basic fallacy in this approach is that it is inflationary. Anything which reduces unemployment adds to inflationary pressure. This is true whether the extra jobs are created by expanding the demand for output, or by holding output constant and spreading the work over more people.

It may well be that we should accept a higher level of inflationary pressure—I believe that we should, while containing the pressure by an incomes policy. But the key question then is whether we expand the demand for output, or should we hold output constant and spread the work over more people. Put this way the answer seems obvious: we should expand output.

The advocates of work-sharing are under the illusion that output should be taken as given, but there are millions of unused needs in our society. The only limit to expanding output is the inflationary pressure which that induces. But if work-sharing induces the same inflationary pressure it would be much better to expand output. Moreover, in practice work-sharing would be likely to reduce output by raising the real hourly cost of labour. So it is a counsel of despair based on fallacious reasoning.

Yours faithfully,
P. R. G. LAYARD,
Centre for Labour Economics,
The London School of Economics
and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2,
August 9.

Body and mind

From Dr Patrick Pietroni
Sir, I have only recently returned from holiday and read the three articles published (Spectrum, August 8, 9 and 10) together with your leading article (August 10) and the subsequent correspondence.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Brian Inglis and Ruth West and add some personal observations. Holistic medicine is not just about alternative medicine—I have met many alternative practitioners who are not in the least holistic, treating their clients as objects to whom "things are done". Similarly, I have met many surgeons who, I believe, practice "whole person" medicine.

Holistic medicine is indeed about "whole-person" medicine, but its strength and vitality lie in the fact that it incorporates into its map of the "whole person" the more recent and up-to-date scientific discoveries that have up to till now been disregarded by the majority of traditionally trained doctors. These discoveries that enhance our understanding of how we function as human beings include:

1. Psycho-physiological mechanisms of stress.
2. Insights of modern physics.
3. Concept of field force in human functioning.
4. Holographic theory of brain-storage mechanisms.
5. Systems theory and its implications for treating the individual patient.
6. Nature of healing and healing energies.

At the same time as drawing on up-to-date hard science, many of the principles that form part of holistic medical practice have similarities to and are indeed drawn from traditions of healing that go back many thousands of years.

To my medical and scientific colleagues, I would urge them to break free from the mechanistic—dualistic—reductive Cartesian model that has dominated our thinking for the last three hundred years. I would urge my colleagues practising "alternative methods" to I would caution them not to return to the bad old days of unbridled charismas, and to avoid the naive emotionalism that is present in some quarters of the alternative medicine field.

Research is required, but the methodology used needs to take into account the fallacy of attempting to achieve "objectivity".

Balanced view of Soviet challenge

From the Chancellor of the University of Toronto
Sir, I read your leading article, "Soviet challenge", of August 20 on my way back from the Soviet Union, where I was discussing the resumption of academic exchanges, broken off by Canada after Afghanistan and Poland.

Your article, it seems to me, is quite right when it says that "it makes little sense to spend the country's wealth on weapons of mass destruction which, as deterrents, it is hoped never to use, while simultaneously trying to economize by reducing the educational budget for Russian studies." We in Canada are guilty of the same kind of false economy, only we do our hands further by cutting our students of Russian off from the benefit of exchanges, which the USA, tougher in other ways, has perceived as self-defeating.

But, if we are to arrive at a "realistic assessment of Moscow's policies" as a "first step towards organizing a coherent defence" then, it seems to me, we would be ill-advised to focus on those well-known attributes of an autocratic society like spying, repression and propaganda emphasizing antagonism rather than any possibilities of mutual cooperation in the common interest. Nothing so legitimizes militarism in the Soviet Union as the constantly reproduced threats from the outside world and sustained antagonism, which is seldom followed by coherent policies or actions.

The Soviet system has many problems on the agenda requiring cooperation rather than confrontation, such as persistent nationalist feelings among its scores of ethnic minorities, the need for foreign trade and investment and falling productivity. If our differences are not susceptible to resolution by weapons of mass destruction, the Alliance should seriously consider organizing "a coherent defence" by means alternative to the present escalation of nuclear blackmail and antagonism.

Is not another "Wise Man" exercise on non-military cooperation long overdue in Nato? (Pearson-Lange and Martens, 1958). Yours truly,
GEORGE IGNATIEFF, Chancellor,
University of Toronto,
Toronto,
Ontario,
Canada,
August 21.

At the grassroots

From the Right Reverend Robin Woods
Sir, "Grassroots mergers" figure in your headline story for August 16. May the hope be expressed that the merger of ordinary constituents within the Liberal and Social Democratic parties may be consistently encouraged? Nothing is more necessary, at present, to Parliament than a competent, and united "her Majesty's" opposition on a truly democratic basis. This, the merger might well provide.

The lesson of "grassroots" opinion is important. Had the Church of England and the Methodists listened to it the two churches would have been united ten years ago to the now agreed immense benefits of both bodies. Had grassroots conviction between Anglicans and Romans been followed after the happy and significant papal visit, we should already be enjoying some fruits of Christian unity.

As it is, the political unity of Liberals and Social Democrats and the religious unity of Anglicans and others is postponed indefinitely because the leaders in each case cannot agree. How long is this impasse in the common life of our community to go on? When will leaders in both states and church learn the lesson?

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN WOODS,
Torse End House,
Tisbury,
Wiltshire,
August 16.

Commandos in Greece

From Mr Martin Gilbert
Sir, May I use the courtesy of your correspondence column to right a wrong? In a letter to his son in June, 1941, Winston Churchill wrote of 60 British soldiers who surrendered (as he expressed it) "in droves, and came out of caves with their hands up like a lot of ridiculous loons."

This comment was published in volume six of the Churchill biography, together with a footnote, for which I alone am responsible, identifying these troops as those involved in the attack on the Italian Dodecanese island of Castellorizo four months earlier. Evidence which I have now seen (and ought to have sought earlier) makes it clear that no such surrender took place on Castellorizo, and that the bravery of the unit involved, 50 Middle East Commando, was considerable.

Whichever episode Churchill was

Bracken-spraying on Dartmoor

From Lady Sayer
Sir, A valuable report prepared for the Council for National Parks by Dr Ian Brotherhood, of Sheffield University, reveals the increasing strength of agricultural representation on national park boards and committees: this representation has risen by 50 per cent since 1979, mainly for political reasons. The result is disastrous for many national parks, including Dartmoor.

At its meeting on July 28 the Dartmoor National Park Committee accepted the recommendation of one of its subcommittees (consisting of five members, four of them farming representatives) to raise no objection to the spraying by helicopter of a toxic bracken-killer on a large area of open common, Haynes Down, on eastern Dartmoor, an area much visited by family parties on account of its famous rock stack, Bowerman's Nose, and the views from the tor above it. An unfenced road and public bridleway traverse the common, and people enjoy walking, riding and picnicking everywhere on this land.

Toxic spraying on private enclosed fields may be one thing: such operations on open access moorland, followed by time-spraying, are surely quite another. The park officials admit that the public will have to be chased off the down before, during, and in the week following bracken-spraying operations, and that "it would not be advisable to eat bilberries from the down"; after the associated liming, "bilberry would suffer and so would the small amount of heather... the botanical interest of wet areas might be reduced and lichens adversely affected."

This kind of situation will continue and worsen while farming interests are allowed to dictate policy in our national parks.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA SAYER,
Cator,
Widcombe-in-the-Moor,
Devon.

Refugees' contribution

From Mr Bernard Denvir
Sir, The second leader in your issue of August 20 was a worthy and finely expressed tribute to a man of great gifts and distinction, Nikolaus Fejervar is dead, and his death has diminished all of us, though his legacy remains for our delectation.

He was one of a large number of men and women who, coming to Britain as refugees in the 1930s, have made a contribution to British life and culture comparable to, but far greater than, that of the Huguenots in the seventeenth century.

Overcoming enormous obstacles, not all of which ceased to exist when they left Germany, they displayed immense courage, intellectual energy of the highest order, and a deep sense of moral probity. Yet no serious attempt has been made, either in books, on television or on radio, to assess this phenomenon as a coherent whole, to chronicle it in an accessible format, nor to record the personal reactions of those who participated in it.

The death of Sir Nikolaus is a cogent reminder that it will soon be too late to achieve at least one part of such an undertaking.

Yours &c,
BERNARD DENVIR,
85 Knatchbull Road, SES.

Truth in advertising

From Mr Basil Boothroyd
Sir, Your correspondent (August 20) reporting 10 proclaimed chemical additives in his iced bun is right to infer that the British palate has become blunted.

It's too late to do anything about that now, but he quotes the mystery ingredients in coded form, meaningless to the lay consumer. We don't even know what's doing the blunting.

Across the Atlantic, as so often, they are in the lead here. The "Orange Juice" button on the refreshment dispenser in my Cleveland, Ohio, hotel room, produced a can labelled "Imitation Citrus-Flavoured Artificially-Sweetened Dietary Carbonated Beverage".

At least the American palate knows what it's getting.

Yours sincerely,
BASIL BOOTHROYD,
Celcers,
Church Street,
Cuckfield,
Sussex,
August 22.

Political contributions

From Mr Paul Tyler
Sir, If Mr Tebb's proposals for corporate contributions to the parties are to be truly equitable then shareholders should be given the individual right to opt out of any political levy imposed—whether voted upon or not—by their company.

Moreover, investment trust and pension fund managers should be required to poll their beneficiaries before casting a vote for a political contribution, and to facilitate a similar "contract out" arrangement for any dissenting minority.

Yours etc,
PAUL TYLER,
Tregrove House,
Rills Mill,
Callington,
Cornwall.

From Mrs Ray Linnett
Sir, All I can say is that if Mr Tebb insists on all wage earners being paid by cheque, employers will have to join the long queues at the tills of our already understaffed national banks.

Yours faithfully,
RAE LINNETT,
16 Brookside,
Cambridge.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

August 24: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips this afternoon opened the Thamesdown Housing Association's Elderly Persons Grouped Dwelling at Park Farm, Morden, Swindon, where Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Wiltshire (Colonel Hugh Brassey).

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips escorted by the Vice-Chairman, Thamesdown Housing Association (Mrs B. Brettle) toured the Sheltered Development and later the Disabled Persons Unit where Her Royal Highness unveiled a commemorative plaque.

Miss Victoria Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.C. Cosans and Miss M. M. Flaherty
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Dr G. R. V. Cosans, of Puerto Pollensa, Mallorca, and of Mrs H. M. Cosans, of Wiltford, Weymouth, Dorset, and daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Anthony Flaherty, of Colliers House, Kilmac, Perthshire.

Mr J. M. Fellows and Miss J. C. Cleary
The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mrs M. E. Fellows, of Penarth, South Glamorgan, and Miss J. C. Cleary, only daughter of Dr and Mrs J. F. Cleary, of Lower Hardres, Canterbury, Kent.

Captain N. J. Foster and Miss E. S. Shadlow
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Foster, Royal Air Force, elder son of Major-General and Mrs Peter Foster, The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire, and Beth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs George Sheldon, Brough, Newark, Nottinghamshire.

Mr J. P. Harris and Miss J. C. Penney
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs William E. F. Harris, of Sorbiton, Surrey, and Janet Celia, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Joy Penney, of Long Eaton, Nottingham.

CLARENCE HOUSE

August 24: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother today visited Orkney, and in the morning visited the Pier Arts Centre at Stromness.

In the afternoon, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother inaugurated the new lighting system and attended a Service of Dedication in St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall.

Her Majesty travelled in an Aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Ruth Lady Fernoy and Sir Martin Gillis were in attendance.

A service in memory of Sir Eric Turner, Honorary Fellow of University College London and Emeritus Professor of Papyrology in London University will be held at the University Church of Christ the King, Gordon Square, London WC1, on Wednesday, October 26, 1983, at noon.

The family of Mr and Mrs Ernest Tasker, of Malin Drive, Northwich, Cheshire, wish to congratulate them on the sixtieth anniversary of their marriage on Thursday, August 25.

Mr R. T. Knight and Miss D. J. Evans
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs T. Knight, of Filton, Bristol, and Delyth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Goronwy Evans, of Llangadog, Dyfed.

Mr C. Lowry and Miss S. J. Moyle
The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. S. Lowry, of 1 Kent Road, Hove, and Susan Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs D. G. Moyle, of Lower Walton, Cheshire.

Mr G. C. Mearns and Miss J. M. M. Rice-Evans
The engagement is announced between Gerry, youngest son of Mr E. J. Mearns and the late Mrs A. J. Mearns, and Miss J. M. M. Rice-Evans, daughter of the late Colonel J. A. M. Rice-Evans and Dr E. I. Rice-Evans, of Dan y Castell, Crickhowell, Powys.

Mr E. Peake and Miss A. V. P. Becham
The engagement is announced between Kenneth, son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Peake, of Penryn, North Wales, and Virginia, daughter of the late Professor the Hon. Alastair Becham, and Mrs Becham, of Brill, Buckinghamshire. The marriage will take place in New York, in September.

Mr J. D. R. Stowell and Miss A. F. Parrett
The engagement is announced between Justin, son of Mr and Mrs J. C. Stowell, of Brighton, Sussex, and Alicia, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Parrott, of Whaddon, Buckinghamshire.

RAF Church of St Clement Danes

The Ministry of Defence announces that a service of thanksgiving will be held at 11.00 am on Sunday, October 23, to mark the 25th anniversary of the re-consecration of St Clement Danes Church, Strand, WC2, as the central church of the Royal Air Force.

Past members of the Royal Air Force and its reserve forces are invited to apply for tickets in writing, enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope, to reach the Ministry of Defence, 510(Air), Room 501, Adelphi House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RU by not later than September 28, in the event of excessive demand tickets will be allocated by ballot.

Tickets will be issued (and any unsuccessful applicants advised) 7-10 days before the service. Applications should not be sent to St Clement Danes.

Birthdays today

Air Marshal Sir Michael Ammitage, 53; Mr Leonard Bernstein, 65; Mr Sean Connery, 53; Mr Frederick Forsyth, 43; Mr Andrew Gardner, 51; Lord McGregor of Durris, 62; Mr Brian Moore, 62; Mr Bryan Mosley, 52; Lieutenant-General Sir Harold Redman, 84; Sir Graham Rowlandson, 75; Sir Thomas Shankland, 78; Dr Paul Staitis, 74; Mrs M. S. Treadman, 64.

Divorce for judge

Mr Justice Mustill, who sits in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court was granted a decree nisi in an uncontested suit in the London Divorce Court yesterday ending his marriage of 23 years.

Latest appointments

Lord Blake to be a member of the board of the Channel Four Television Company from September 1.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Thomas Kennedy to be Air Aide-de-Camp to the Queen. He succeeds Air Chief Marshal Sir Douglas Lowe.

Major-General Sir David Thomas to be Commander, 1 Armoured Division in November. Brigadier C. J. Waters to be Commander 4 Armoured Division in November, in the rank of Major-General.

Brigadier P. M. Welsh to be President, The Regular Commissions Board in November, in the rank of Major-General.

Welsh watering place revived

Glasses were raised in Llandrindod Wells, Powys, yesterday when the Welsh town launched a campaign to recapture its Edwardian success as a watering place for health seekers.

Three types of spa water are being offered to visitors from the newly reopened pump room of the Rock Park pavilion, an elegant building which once attracted 80,000 people a year at the turn of the century.

Luncheon

HM Government
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon given at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of the Ambassador of the Ivory Coast.



Mrs Alice Angell Everard with the Nobel Peace Prize gold medal awarded to her great-uncle, Sir Norman Angell, the Labour MP and distinguished writer, in 1933. Yesterday she presented the medal on long loan to the Imperial War Museum, London. (Photograph: John Manning).

Move to weed out indifferent colleges and crammers

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A new inspection system for the 150 private tutorial colleges and crammers, designed to reassure foreigners and to distinguish the good institutions from the less efficient, is to be launched in the next few weeks.

The new body, to be called the British Accreditation Council, is the outcome of two years' work on the part of a group set up by the British Council and chaired by Mr Brian Vale. It reflects the growing concern about fly-by-night operators who charge high fees and offer indifferent education.

Since 1978, when the Department of Education and Science stopped regular full inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate, private tutorial colleges have been unable to show that they are recognized as efficient by an authoritative body. It is intended that the new council would work in the same way as the inspectors used to.

The formal decision to establish the new council is expected on September 16 when representatives of a number of public bodies will meet. They include the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, the Council for Independent Further Education (CIFE), would have its own inspection system approved by the council.

CIFE, with its 28 members, has a rigorous inspection system whereby colleges are inspected once every three years by former members of Her Majesty's Inspectorate. Its president is Lord Beloff and it has its own code of conduct.

One of the countries which has complained most bitterly about the fact that there is no inspection system for crammers is Nigeria, which claimed recently that British institutions were surviving solely on fees paid by unsuspecting Nigerians.

establish the council, there will be wide consultation with colleges.

It is expected that a college will either be able to apply for accreditation with the council or that an association of colleges, such as the Conference for Independent Further Education (CIFE), would have its own inspection system approved by the council.

The site, at Eton, near Maxey, lies only a short distance from the later neolithic causeway camp, dating to about 2,700 BC, which has been excavated over the past two years (*The Times*, November 8, 1982). The early occupations documented by the presence of plain pottery bowls of the Grimston-Lydes Hill tradition, the first ceramic style known in the British Isles. It is also marked according to Mr Francis Pryor, the director of the project, by the use of long thin flint blades, carefully made, and by a "very substantial ditch".

Continued work on the site has resulted in the recovery of well preserved plant and animal remains from the ditches of the causeway camp, including food residues baked on to the insides of pottery bowls.

The animal bones include those of lamb, which has been stewed or stripped from the bones before cooking, rather than roasted as a joint, and a bundle of pig ribs piled in one end of the ditch. Horn cores show that cattle were also present.

Willow rods show that coppicing was practiced to obtain thin sticks of constant size, and alder and poplar seem to have been treated similarly. Thin wooden rods were used to make a variety of tools, and wooden fragments were also used to make needles, gouges and scrapers for working skin and other materials.

One of the most spectacular finds has been the substantially complete handle for a polished stone axe, some 40 cm (16 in) long, with the slot for the stone blade and a knob at the top to add extra weight. A number of axe blade fragments have also been found, from distant sources, including one in the Lake District.

"There is no other waterlogged causeway camp that I know of in Britain," Mr Pryor said. "It is a unique site: while we hoped to get 25 per cent of it dug this season, we shall be lucky to have completed the excavation of 5 per cent." Mr Pryor hopes that the present cooperation between the Department of the Environment's Fenland Project and the landowners, Ternace Roadstone (Eastern), will continue so that more of the site can be investigated.



Princess Michael of Kent at her home in Stroud, Gloucestershire, with two 12-week-old brown Burmese kittens, replacements for her pet, Kitty, who was knocked down and killed three weeks ago.

Science report

Phenomenon of rising US teenage pregnancy rate

By Bill Johnstone

Nearly \$2m (£1.3m) has been granted by the Ford Foundation in the United States for research into projects investigating the soaring level of teenage pregnancies in America.

According to the foundation about 1.3 million girls, between the ages of 15 and 19 become pregnant every year, which is a rate far exceeding that of other developed countries.

"In Sweden, where the level of sexual activity among teenagers is comparable, the pregnancy rate dropped from 64 to 38 per thousand from 1974 to 1980," the foundation's researchers say. In the Netherlands the rate fell from 28 to 13 per thousand from 1971 to 1979. In the United States, on the other hand, the rate rose from 95 to 111 per thousand from 1972 to 1981.

A substantial proportion of

the research into this US social phenomenon will be conducted by the Manpower Research Corporation, Bank Street College of Education and the Alan Guttmacher Institute for New York and the National Academy of Sciences of Washington.

Scientists at the institute and at the academy will be involved in conducting the international research on the project.

There will be a national study on teenage pregnancy by the scientists and an international conference will be staged at the National Academy of Sciences at which the study's findings is to be discussed.

Researchers at the Guttmacher Institute, according to the brief given the scientists by the foundation "will compare adolescent birth rates in 27

developed countries, relating them to such factors as age at first intercourse, availability of contraception, family stability, and sex education in the schools.

"The study will attempt to answer such questions as why teenage pregnancy rates are so high in the US, whether pregnancies are concentrated in certain segments of the population, and what approaches might lower the rates."

Another study on the subject, part funded by \$180,000 (£120,000) grant from the foundation is research being conducted by Dr Laurie Zabin, a research director at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore. Dr Zabin has been conducting a survey among pupils at some Baltimore schools to find out attitudes to sex, their know-

ledge of contraception and their experience of intercourse. Dr Zabin has previously studied pregnancy incidents among teenagers and found that about half of the unplanned teenage pregnancies took place within six months of initial coitus.

Johns Hopkins University is extremely active in their area of research. A recent report from the Ford Foundation highlighted some of its findings. It says: "About 40 per cent of young people between the ages of 13 and 19 are sexually active, a rate that increased by two-thirds during the 1970s."

"For whites the percentage of unmarried, sexually active, 15 to 17-year-old females increased from 15 per cent to more than 30 per cent during the 1970s; for blacks it rose from 44 per cent to 55 per cent."

OBITUARY

MR P. R. C. ELLIOTT

Original research into mass communications

Mr P. R. C. Elliott, one of the leading figures in British research into journalism and mass communications in general, died on August 18. He was 40.

Elliott was a research Fellow at the University of Leicester's Mass Communication Research Centre and in spite of his relatively short career he had established an international reputation in a field he did much to create.

Philip Ross Courtney Elliott was educated at Calverton School, Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich Civic College, and Worcester College, Oxford, where he read politics, philosophy and economics. Postgraduate work at Manchester University followed, where his research into the professions was to form the basis of his first book, *The Sociology of the Professions*.

He joined the new Mass Communications Research Centre in 1966 and rapidly gained a reputation as an energetic and original researcher. He became especially adept at applying anthropological skills and concepts he acquired at Manchester to the study of mass media organizations and occupations; in 1972 he published *The Making of a Television Series* which has become a seminal study and a standard text for students in Britain and abroad.

Elliott brought a powerful and inventive intellect to bear on all his research. His later books and articles continued to explore the sociology of journalism and the mass media particularly as it related to public policy and central contemporary political issues.

In 1977 he produced a report

for Unesco, called *Reporting Northern Ireland* on the role of the media in current Ulster politics. Recently he had been working on a book analysing media coverage of the Falkland war. A book on the media and terrorism written with colleagues will be published this autumn.

As chairman of the communications studies panel of the Council for National Academic Awards he played a central role in developing this new and rapidly expanding field of study in British polytechnics. His works have been widely translated in both east and west Europe and are now used internationally by students of mass communications.

Elliott was a major creative force in a new academic field struggling to find its feet, and he did much to introduce avenues of inquiry which have since become standard. His achievements were all the more remarkable for having been accomplished against a background of severe and often enervating illness since 1971, when he contracted a rare blood condition.

Elliott was admired and liked for his positive enthusiasm for life, expressed not only among his colleagues and the students whom he taught but also in his love for sailing and in his many community and local Labour Party activities.

He was devoted to his family and his loyalty and commitment in recent years owe much to the courage and support of his second wife Wendy whom he married in 1976. She survives him, as do his first wife, Sarah and his five children.

SIR NIKOLAUS PEVSNER

Professor Peter Leask writes: Your very full account (August 19) of Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's achievements nevertheless leaves somehow, something unsaid.

I am only one of more than one generation of students who were inspired to study the history of art by Nikolaus's outstanding gifts as a teacher both in London at Birkbeck College and at Cambridge, where no one has been able to match his impact as Slade Professor, renewed year after year, for no less than seven years.

I can still remember the excitement of that first lecture on the history of art I ever had, given to a small group of us one evening at Birkbeck in 1945. I can even remember the content - the sculpture of the West Front of Chartres - probably rather better than many lectures I have heard since.

It was clear, it was concise - and in its fertile suggestions for all that research that waited to be done, it was intellectually immensely stimulating. Once one fell under his spell, there was no other subject one could ever want to study.

For those privileged enough to attend them, the nine-hour guided tours of a cathedral - no story this, but a fact - seemed far shorter.

I must be voicing what so many of his students will feel at this time - an immense gratitude to the man.

W. J. S. Wright
I wonder if you might find room for a short note about the generous attitude to young talent on the part of Sir Nikolaus Pevsner in the context of your excellent comprehen-

sive tribute to his work and personality. I am interested in a piece of amateur research on industrial landscape in this area by a 16-year-old boy member of the Architectural Hobby I ran at the College here in Bishop's Stortford. Nikolaus Pevsner published the short illustrated piece in the prestigious *Architectural Review*, and asked to come over to see the Hobby in action and gave a free lecture to the whole school on "an architectural subject of general interest. A lecture which none of those present on the occasion (23 years ago) staff or boys, are likely to forget."

Mr Joseph Eric Smith, CBE, who was headmaster of Yew Tree School, Manchester, for seven years from 1947 and then headmaster of Sheldon Heath School, Birmingham from 1955 to 1971 died on August 19.

Born in 1910, Smith was educated at Bedford Grammar School and Queen's College, Oxford. In the Second World War he was a flight-lieutenant in the RAFVR Education Service.

Lady Raikes, widow of Admiral Sir Robert Raikes, KCB, CVO, DSO, Flag Officer Submarines, 1936-38, and Commander-in-Chief South Atlantic in 1941, died on August 20 at the age of 95. Their son, Vice-Admiral Sir Iwan Raikes, KCB, CBE, DSC, was also Flag Officer Submarines in 1974-76.

Lady Lowe, who died on August 14 at the age of 73, was the widow of the late Sir David Lowe, CBE, Chairman of Elvington Estates Ltd. She was Katherine Cecile Jane, daughter of Roderick Ross, CVO, CBE, in 1974-76.

'Smile' order at carnival

By Nicholas Thomas

Carnival will be on the streets of Notting Hill, west London, again this weekend, with police officers under orders to smile and be cheerful.

Grants from the Commission for Racial Equality and the Greater London Council have given the carnival and art committee permanent premises and a staff. Both the organizers and the police say cooperation in the run-up to the carnival has been good.

Police numbers this year will be down again on last year's when more than 11,000 officers were on the streets or in reserve for the two-day event. This year it is expected to attract over 200,000 people on Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday.

The police approach to the event is much the same as before, telling the number of officers on the streets to the size of the crowds. Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Cracknell, who is in charge of the operation, said the police would act swiftly to deal with running

gangs of youths who in the past have swept through the crowds picking pockets and robbing.

The event, which attracts the biggest crowds on to London's streets during the year, has become increasingly troublesome in recent years although last year there was an increase in thefts and pickpocketing.

Control of the event has been moved from Scotland Yard to area level, and Deputy Assistant Commissioner Cracknell said the long-term aim was to return control to the local police commander - something the carnival committee has been urging on the police for some years.

"That will not happen in the short-term because of the sheer numbers of police and public involved," Mr Cracknell said, but it was the long-term aim.

Police yesterday repeated their annual advice to visitors not to carry shoulder bags or handbags, wear valuable jewelry or carry expensive cameras, or wallets in trouser pockets.

Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before tax paid):
Chapman, Mr Anthony Charles, of Bodleigh, Salterton, Devon, chartered patent agent, £228,375.
Geddes of Epsom, Baron, of Framingham, Cam, Sussex, general secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers 1944-57, £3,335.
Geddes of Epsom, Lady, his wife, £19,157.
Ives, Mrs Elsie Mary, of Leeds, West Yorkshire, £337,694.
Kings, Mrs Barbara Maud, £201,127.
Lewis, Lieutenant-Colonel, Peter, of Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, £454,817.
Parker, Mr Graham Lane, of Concord, Hampshire, £436,680.

Reifers, Mr Fred, of Flagg, Derbyshire, £270,287.
Jackson, Mr Arthur Frank, of Chadderton, Lancashire, £203,951.
Marsons, Mr Sydney, of Coventry ophthalmic optician, £253,454.
Metcalfe, Mrs Ellen, of Lancaster, £597,100.
Mills, Mr Walter Albert, of Newton le Willows, Merseyside, book-maker, £249,120.
Moore, Mrs Anne Maud, of Bramley, £204,817.
Sunderland, Mr William, of Coddington, Nottinghamshire, architect and surveyor, £268,733.
Sunderland, Mr Edmund Lawrence, of Uffington, Stamford, Lincolnshire, £351,420.

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حکومت اسلامی

THE ARTS

Holly Hill reports on the first musical hit of the Broadway season Exotic birds in a gilded cage

La Cage aux folles
Palace, New York

La Cage aux folles may be about homosexuals, but emotionally it is the straightest new musical to open on Broadway in years. The show has the sleek polish and razzle-dazzle of recent Broadway musical hits, but unlike most of them backs the glitter with a heart full of, yet made more generous by, worldly experience.

Based upon Jean Poirot's long-running French play, which also inspired the film of the same name, Harvey Fierstein's book advances the thesis of his Tony-award-winning *Torch Song Trilogy* - that people of different sexual preferences live-and-let-live - with his distinctive voice and more disciplined craft. More than the film and, one presumes, Poirot's farce, the musical is a real love story.

Owner and master ceremonies of *La Cage aux folles*, St Tropez nightspot which features a drag show, Georges (Gene Barry) has lived happily in a homosexual marriage with his star and transvestite "wife" Albin (George Hearn). They

have raised the son of Georges's one heterosexual encounter, Jean-Michel (John Weiner), who wants to marry a girl of priggish parentage and is concerned to present a traditional family image. In the madcap scramble variously to disguise, rationalize and finally recognize Albin, the marital and parental bonds are refreshed and deepened. On its level as a Broadway musical, this *La Cage aux folles* has some of the abiding qualities of Mary Renault's *The Last of the Wine*.

The story is framed by numbers at *La Cage* featuring "Les Cagelles", a chorus of 10 men in drag - just to keep the audience guessing - two women. For these extravaganzas, Theoni V. Aldridge (costumes), David Mitchell (sets) and Jules Fisher (lighting) spin their palerettes with giddy abandon and come up with displays of curtains changing colour and texture at the turn of a get and outfits ranging - in the evening number alone - from saffron capes thrown off to reveal art deco lounging pyjamas thrown off to show pink and purple sailor dresses and 12 pairs of choraline legs. In another number "Les Cagelles" are

garbed as exotic birds and, later, like personified daffodils got up for Ascot.

Scenes offstage at *La Cage* and in other locales advance the action while revealing character. In "A Little More Mascara" we watch Albin don his nightclub make-up and costume as he sings about what dressing in drag does for his self-esteem. "By rouging the other cheek... I can cope again. There's hope again". Throughout the show, the composer-lyricist Jerry Herman wittily and sensitively captures the characters and milieu. Gene Barry sings that *La Cage* "is slightly forties and a little new wave/You may dance with a girl who needs a shave".

There is no blockbuster title song from the creator of *Hello Dolly* and *Mame*; here Mr Herman has channelled his strengths into ballads, and he, Mr Fierstein and the director Arthur Laurents know just how to use them to broadest effect. When Jean-Michel sings of his love for his girl, his heterosexual sentiments are echoed by his father's for Albin. Georges sings tellingly of Albin's mother-love and Jean-Michel signals his acceptance of that view in a reprise in front of his girl's

outraged parents. Loveliest of all is "Song on the Street", Georges's tribute to his youthful attraction and lasting love for his partner. The show's sensational song is Albin's Act I finale, which brings the audience to its feet with a sentiment "Your life is sham/Until you can shout 'I am what I am'".

There are disappointments in the show. The meeting between the prospective in-laws drags until Albin jollies everyone with a song, and the choreography by Scott Salmon is dull. The staging of the musical numbers - with chorines riding trapezes, sliding down bars, tapping and somersaulting and can-canning - almost masks the unimaginative nature of the actual steps, but one longs in vain for even one number where dance is glorified. Among the compensations still unmentioned are the graceful voices and performances of George Hearn and Gene Barry, who delight with good humour, warm with dignity and touch with humanity an odd couple who could inspire the audience to rethink the whole question of who's got rhythm.

Holly Hill



Gene Barry (left) and George Hearn: delighting with humour, touching with humanity

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Seriousness imbued with all the fun of the fair

Die Zauberflöte
Playhouse

There have been mutterings in Edinburgh about the need for the Festival to import the Hamburg State Opera's *Magic Flute* when Scottish Opera is newly possessed of a widely liked production of its own. I hope Tuesday night's performance will have settled them, for Achim Freyer's conception is as different from Jonathan Miller's as blissful idiosyncrasy is from learning, or Papageno from Sarastro, or indeed Mozart from Mozart. And this is the extraordinary thing: the same score comprehends both, and sounds as much at home in Mr Freyer's circus as ever it did in Dr Miller's library.

Played on, around and underneath a tatty canvas-coloured platform, this is a production full of stunts, Sarastro, magnificently sung by Robert Lloyd as

a late substitution, is a 20-foot giant revealed behind curtains when he has to be. So much for him. Monostatos and his cronies are blue men with white boots and helmets. The Queen of the Night is another figure of grotesque, stationary enormity. Tamino a boy dandy who has stepped out of a silent film romance in his smart sailor suit and gym shoes.

Best of all, Papageno is a baggy-trousered clown who comes swinging in on a rope a couple of times, and who, by the simple expedient of a carrot false nose, is rescued from all the usual sentimentality. Papageno as the common man is a character who rapidly slips into the maulin. Papageno as a clown is something else: sympathy is held at bay by nuances of alarm and scorn. So at least it is in this splendid performance by Mikael Melbye, who behind his clown make-up can sing with complete and easy naturalness. The virtues of the production, however, go further. In the first place, it

is quite simply a stunning piece of theatre. Working as his own designer, Mr Freyer takes nothing for granted and leaves his audience with never a dull moment. But that is not necessarily a positive merit: after all, he could have done the same thing with *La Traviata* or *The Flying Dutchman*. A circus presentation of *The Magic Flute*, however, seems to return it importantly to its origins in a theatre of low vulgarity, one where comedy is mixed with the crude and the dangerous.

At the same time this is a very thoughtful performance, and out of its thoughtfulness comes at the end, strangely enough, a condensation of ideas with Dr Miller. As the final scene ends, no Tamino wakes as if from a dream. The cast and chorus have been shut behind a gauze: he realizes he is excluded, and for a moment he is dejected. But then he smiles and skips off. Thank goodness, he seems to be saying, life is not like that.

But thank goodness opera performances can be. One measure of the success of Mr Freyer's production is the extent to which it has won an individual enthusiasm and corporate zip from the cast: everyone appears relaxed and released to give of his or her best, while the ensemble work is as tight as circus demands. Rüdiger Woblers is a Tamino who is strong, young and direct, and needs no frills. Helen Donath as Pamina similarly avoids giving star turns, though perhaps this is achieved as much by her unpleasant costume, making her look like Snow White's step-mother, as by her vocal straightforwardness.

There are also resourceful trifles of ladies and boys, and the opera is conducted with seriousness but no hint of pomposity by Christoph von Dohnányi. It will all be set in motion again tonight and on Saturday.

Paul Griffiths

221B
Church Hill Theatre

I doubt whether the reading public would have taken Sherlock Holmes to its heart without the help of Watson, that rock-solid embodiment of bovine British decency whose friendship guarantees Holmes as a good chap, despite all the mountebank intellectual evidence to the contrary. Also, when it comes to dramatization, Watson has often proved the better acting part. Hence Martin Ruddy's otherwise improbable exercise of writing a one-man Baker Street play in which only Watson appears.

Set after Holmes's disappearance into the Reichenbach Falls, it introduces Watson as a lonely widower paying an elegiac trip to 221B for a last look round the old place, which is now up for sale.

Nigel Stock shuffles in proprietorially, removes the dust sheet from his favourite chair and relaxes amid the familiar clutter of Pamela Howard's set. Memories drift back as he scans *The Times* obituary, and before long he is inspecting Holmes's chemical table, fondling the Stradivarius and uncovering an Action Man-like replica of his old friend, seated at his desk. And, as he reminisces on Holmes's educational shortcomings and tendency to brag,

Watson also starts taking on a new role as the Baker Street Boswell, whose account of Holmes's cases have made him known to the world.

At this point the play hits a rock. It starts with the shared game of treating Holmes and Watson as real people with real biographies and leads you to expect a memory play. But, once the opening flourishes are over, there is nothing for memory to feed on but fiction.

Thus, with an audible gear-change, Mr Ruddy moves from a study of their characters into a series of thumbnail re-enactments of their adventures. Doorbells ring, issuing in invisible visitors. Mr Stock gets busy turning himself into a

Spanish beauty, a Scottish housekeeper and Lestrade of the Yard; and it says much for his technique that Watson remains clearly in view throughout these transformations.

The final ventilator lights up for "The Speckled Band": the whole set goes into an illuminated downpour for Holmes's tryout for Moriarty, and Mr Stock is fitfully seen circling the stage with a dark lantern, and climbing over the furniture, in his escape from the Hampstead burglary.

If there is any actor alive who could pull it off, Mr Stock is the man; but, apart from the indestructible appeal of the stories themselves, the enter-

prise becomes increasingly pointless. Watson originally dropped in for a private reverse; so why is he now patently putting on a show for an audience?

Jack Emery's production at last popularizes the stage with a sense of unselfish life, and extracts some wonderful rapid timing from Mr Stock, simultaneously offering himself a cocaine needle and recoiling from it. Also, some of the original contrast between truth and fiction does survive, as in Holmes's querulous objection to the illustrations in Watson's books: "Do I look like a man who would wear a deerstalker hat?"

Irving Wardle

Dance The mark of class

New York City Ballet
Covent Garden

The second programme of New York City Ballet's visit to London on Tuesday introduced two further new works with one known favourite, Balanchine's *Mozartiana*, which opened the programme, is a disconcerting work, not in the least what one might expect, but it has about it the marks of greatness which should become easier to follow as we get used to the piece.

The music is Tchaikovsky's Suite No 4, with its homage to the older composer, and the choreography similarly makes use of old forms, as in the opening "Pregiera", an invocation of prayer solos such as we have seen in *Coppelia*, or the Gigue, full of the bows and scrapings and nimble cavortings on which Massine, for instance, might have built a minor character, a waiter perhaps, in one of his comedies.

But how Balanchine transforms his raw material! Tall Suzanne Farrell, with four small girls (pupils from Bush Davies School) in attendance, decorates the pious poses with the most tender grace-notes; and Jock Soto in his solo is quick bounding unpredictably about



Scintillating ease: Suzanne Farrell and Ib Andersen in *Mozartiana*

the stage from start to finish of his music, to irrepressibly joyous effect.

The longest section, the Theme and Variations, brings back Farrell, joined by the company's latest Danish star, Ib Andersen, for a duet followed by several solos apiece, an ensemble bringing in the four tall young women who have previously danced a pretty Menuet, and another duet to finish. This sequence is full of the most amazing invention,

nor enhance each other by contrast or similarity.

The music is a selection of Tchaikovsky's piano pieces written at different periods of his career, most of which will be unfamiliar to concert-goers although some will be known to balletomanes from other contexts. The group dances seemed to me either relentlessly funny, as in the "Danse Caractéristique" for six boisterous couples, or too trivially simple, for instance another piece of

pietism where the formula is merely knees bend, arm out, solemn expression, eyes up.

Robbins's skill as a showman is more in evidence during the solos, duets and one trio, a flirtation polka for Andersen with two enchanting young women, Antonia Francheschio and Melinda Roy. Heather Watts has the best of the choreography, a solo like a muted version of the one made for Violette Verdy in *Dances at a Gathering*; but mentioning that earlier, greater example of Robbins's way with piano music only draws attention to a dependence on heavy emoting or bold final flourishes to grab applause in the present work.

Both those new works come from New York City Ballet's 1981 Tchaikovsky Festival, and the evening's final work is a legacy of their 1972 Stravinsky Festival, *Symphony in Three Movements*. In this, Balanchine's choreography brings the soloists harsh, twisted movements to match the score, and sets a large corps de ballet swirling around them in great circles.

What a pity it is that so many of the expensive seats at Covent Garden, being at or below stage level, hide the marvellous floor patterns. During this season, patrons in the balcony or amphitheatre definitely have best view. Still, the splendid dancing can be enjoyed from any angle, as also the musical performances (Robert Irving again conducting, and Jerry Zimmerman as the solo pianist).

John Percival

Sinfonietta/Rattle
Queen Elizabeth Hall

H. K. Gruber's *Charivari* is described as "an Austrian journal for orchestra", and it might have provided a pleasingly irreverent start. The performance under Simon Rattle was lively enough, but the piece's basic material, the main phrase of Strauss's "Perpetuum Mobile", is, of course, scarcely

worthy of reverence. Eventually the mask of jollity slips, although a trumpet quotation of "Wiener Blut" music's normally compulsory unhappy ending might almost be avoided.

The London Sinfonietta is relatively small, yet Emanuel Ax, the soloist in Mozart's Piano Concerto, K453, dominated less than might have been expected. His evident full membership of the ensemble

lent a heightened intimacy to the intensive dialogue of this music. Indeed, its many shades of melancholy seemed more than usually acute.

Exactly 150 years later in the same tradition, another concerto, Berg's for violin, also benefited from the comparatively modest size of the ensemble. Curiously enough, it was the reduced body of strings (in comparison with a normal symphony orchestra) that ap-

peared to darken this score's romantic introspection. Its continuous outpourings, which give rise to a Carinthian folk song as well as a Bach chorale, were shaped with the finest discrimination by Young Uck Kim, the soloist, and the whole Sinfonietta. This interpretation was a fine achievement in the midst of a busy festival.

The concert's novelty was Oliver Knussen's *Music for a*

Puppet Court, which had its first performance. Subtitled "puzzle pieces for two chamber orchestras", this derives from puzzle canons by the sixteenth-century British composer John Lloyd, and at first evokes that distant period. Soon, however, a resourcefully discontinuous, even humorous, antiphonal use is being made of the quite differently instrumented pair of orchestras.

Max Harrison

Television

Effective touch of affection

"I am a toucher", said Sister Antonia Brenner, explaining that everyone needed the odd pat. The sister, walking round the Mexican jail she has taken under her wing for the last five years, was as good as her word and the prisoners responded with enthusiasm. Watching and talking to the nun about her rehabilitation work was Dr Miriam Stoppard who, we were told in Yorkshire's *Where There's a Will* last night, had been able to reach the part of the Mexican prison system that countless others had failed to reach.

This Tijuana jail houses some 1,200 men and 50 women, there for misdemeanours ranging from theft to murder. The last governor's visit of prison life had been rather severe and somebody had shot him. His successor had, as seemed desirable in the circumstances, different ideas. He encouraged prisoners to see their families

and even have them stay a while, believing that being locked away from society was punishment enough.

He brought in Sister Brenner to help. The prisoners move around freely, working or not, as they choose. The matronly Sister Brenner regards all as her children and her affectionate techniques and the governor's liberalism seem to work. Over the years, the number of prisoners returning has diminished. A plastic surgeon visits the prison regularly to remove unsightly scars and tattoos so that prisoners can face the world looking as well as feeling different. The sister, he confessed, had roped him in over a dinner.

Unfortunately, the programme's format, which covers several items in its short space, was deemed too sacrosanct to jettison one in the cause of a more complete picture. The

prison film was preceded by an item in which people, among them the "television personality" Paula Yates, talked about why they had dyed their hair.

Mama had dyed her blonde because she feared that otherwise she might look like Bruce Forsyth. As she talked a group of people with extraordinary scalps looked on waiting for the verbal touch of Dr Stoppard. Not all got the opportunity though a young man with a lurid head did manage to explain that it had been more so when he dyed it blue for Christmas.

This intrusion prevented Dr Stoppard from making the most of her scoop and explaining, for instance, how Sister Brenner - who it appears had an earlier career as a wife and mother of six - came to her present vocation.

Dennis Hackett

Promenade Concert

BBCSO/Wand
Albert Hall/Radio 3

The German conductor Günter Wand on Tuesday made one of his extremely rare appearances as chief guest conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra: the rediscovery here of this remarkable musician, now over 70, will be a major benefit to the orchestra if he can be persuaded to give more concerts as cogent and impressive as this one.

White-haired, slightly hunched, Wand moved little during the Mozart "Posthorn" Serenade which filled the first half of the concert. But his body gently swayed with the rhythms, his baton crisply marked out a supple but firm pulse and the smallest whisk of the left hand had a galvanizing effect.

This was so illuminating to watch that I fear I may have heard the performance rather than the one the players played. Though there were some wiry string passages which obtruded, the wind had an excellent evening, particularly in the two concertante movements in the middle which feature pairs of oboes, flutes and bassoons: to hear such amiable music so beautifully turned was a pleasure

which even the surprisingly mellifluous chorling of the posthorn itself in the second movement could not surpass.

In the second half there was Brahms's First Symphony, and it was clear from the first massive thwack that Wand would adopt here a quite different scale of expressiveness. But, though the baton flailed and the left hand urged on the music with passionate intensity, there was still the same fundamental economy of approach and the same firm rhythmic unanimity.

Indeed, Wand's account was chiefly notable for some astonishing decisions about tempo: a very slow coda for the first

movement, magnificently sustaining the tension, another long rallentando at the end of the third movement - and most electrifying - a last movement Allegro which simply and brazenly doubled the tempo of the famous Andante melody.

Brahms's own "posthorn" motif, which he first heard in Switzerland, was just one phrase among many which sprang resonantly from the orchestra. Whatever the minor unidirections and flaws in the playing they were swept aside by the tremendous grip and well-directed power of Wand's conducting.

Nicholas Kenyon

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7.30pm & 9.15pm
Tickets £5.00

1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	2954	2955	2956	2957	2958	2959	2960	2961	2962	2963	2964	2965	2966	2967	2968	2969	2970	2971	2972	2973	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1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							

58	Glossop PLC	100	7.3	12.5
59	Glyndwr	808	10.5	9.7
60	Glyncoed & Goch	100	10.5	12.5
58	Grenada 'A'	171	6.0	4.6
57	Grand Mer PLC	332	12.5	3.7
62	Grattan PLC	266	10.0	10.0
63	Gr Giv Stores	533	20.4	4.0
28	Grp	525	9.0	9.0
56	Grippersheds	129	5.0	3.3
53	Grvenvor Grp	144	7.3	4.7
55	GRV	178	4.1	11.4
57	Grp	175	4.6	4.6
56	H&T	54	13.5	10.0
55	Habitat	2863	7.5	2.1
73	Haden	2826	12.3	4.1
56	Hall Eng	159	18.9	8.2
70	Hall	230	18.9	8.2
80	Hallite	100	18.9	8.2

1 month 9 1/4% 12 months 10 1/4%
First Class Finance Houses
3 months 9% 6 months 9 1/2%
Finance House Base Rate 10%

the 10^{12} - 10^{14} pm. 44. \$424.00
424.25 (\$278.75-
Kruggerand
437.75 (\$287.25-
Severestgar
100.5 (\$85.50-66
* Excludes VA

close. \$423.50-
279.25).
(per coin): \$436.25-
288.25).
(new): 399.5-
25).
T

65	Monks	114	-1	3.4	3.0	06
39	Moorside Trust	91		5.0	5.5	
45	Murray Cal	75	+1	6.0	8.2	
40	Murray Clyde	69		2.0	2.8	
37	Do 's	67				
129	Murray Glend	229		4.5	1.9	
68	Murray N'um	118		2.9	2.4	
58	Do 's	116	+1			
50	Murray West	85		2.7	2.2	
48	Do 's	83	+1			

98 48 S.W. Resources 89 -5

• Ex dividend. • Ex all. • Forecast divi-
dend. • Interim payment passed. • Price
dividend and yield exclude a special
company. • Pre-merger figures. • Forecast
capital distribution. • Tax rights. • Ex
Tax free. • Price adjusted for late
significant data.

..9	..	28.5
2.5	1.8	29.8
2.6	5.3	..

lend. c Corrected
 e at suspension. g
 yment. h Bid for
 est earnings. p Ex
 up or share split. t
 eakings. .. No

[illegible]

81	Wynn's F&A	313	-	20.0	3.0
82	Go A	325	-	20.0	3.0
86	Gripplerrods	129	-	5.0	3.0
89	Grossenover Grp	154	-2	7.3	4.0
93	CRN	178	-	4.6	6.0
95	H A.T. Grp	192	a-2	11.7	10.0
98	HBY	135	-	7.5	2.0
99	Habitat	286	-10	7.5	2.0
73	Haden	263	-13	12.3	4.0
18	Hall Eng	139	-	10.0	8.0
78	Hall M.	122	-2	8.8	3.0
80	Hall M.	235	-	18.4	1.0
94	Halma PLC	121	a-2	1.9	1.0

Interbank Market		
Overnight:	Open 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Close 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 week	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -9 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 months
1 month	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ -9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 months
3 months	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -9 $\frac{3}{4}$	12 months

First Class Finance Houses
 3 months 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 months 9 $\frac{1}{2}$

Finance House Base Rate 10%

Gold
Gold fixed: 1
pm. 5424.04
424.25 (4278.75-
Krugerrand)
437.75 (4287.25-
Sovereign)
100.5 (99.50-95
+ Excludes VA

18
 8
 7
 11
 9
 7
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 6
 2
 11
 11
 11
 8
 8
 8

35	Lon Trust Ord	74	..	5.4	7.5
44	Merchants Trust	76	-1	3.3	4.3
55	Monks	114	-1	3.4	3.0
56	Monks Trust	91	..	5.3	5.2
46	Murray Cal	71	..	6.3b	8.2
43	Do "B"	75	..	2.6	2.8
46	Murray Clyde	69
37	Do "B"	67
129	Murray Glend	229	..	4.7b	1.9
61	Murray N'thn	116	..	2.9	2.4
50	Murray West	85	..	2.7b	3.3
49	Do "B"	83	+1

198	0	Parkfield Pdry	30	
197	148	Resource Tech	129	-13
148	130	Securixguard	135	
98	48	S.W.Resources	89	-9

• Ex dividend. • Ex all. • Forecast price
 price. • Interim payment passed. • Prior
 dividend and yield exclude a special per
 company. • Pre-merger figures. • Power
 capital structure. • Ex rights. • Ex sur
 Tax free. • Price adjusted for late c
 significant data.

..9	..	28.5
2.5	1.8	29.8
2.6	5.3	..

lend. c Corrected
 e at suspension. g
 yment. h Bid for
 est earnings. p Ex
 up or share split. t
 eakings. .. No

100

Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 718.6 down 7.4
FT 100: 79.63 down 0.4
FT All Share: 454.52 down 4.55
Bargains: 19,180
Datastream USM Leaders
Index: 92.27 down 0.58
New York Dow Jones
Average: 1194.11 up 1.22
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones
Index: 9139.73 up 50.15
Hong Kong Hang Seng
Index: 928.18 down 10.96
Amsterdam 149.5 down 2.0
Sydney AO Index: 708.4 up 14
Frankfurt Commerzbank
Index: 936.50 down 0.70
Brussels General Index
133.67 down 0.23
Paris CAC Index: 187.4 up 0.4
Zurich SKA General: 285.7 down 2.3

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5190 down 1 cent
DM 85.6 down 0.1
DM 4.01 down 0.0150
FF 12.0775 up 0.0375
Yen 370.25 down 1.75
Dollar
Index 127.5 up 0.3
DM 2.6350

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.5220
INTERNATIONAL
ECU: 0.56400
SDNE: 0.690488

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9%
Finance houses base rates 10%
Discount market loans week fixed 9%
3 month interbank 9%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9%
3 month DM 5%
3 month FR 15-14%

US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9
Treasury long bond 104 5/32 - 104 9/32

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period July 6 to August 2, 1983 inclusive: 8.989 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$423.75 pm \$424.
close \$423.50-424.25 (E278.75-279.25)
New York latest: \$424
Kruggerand (per ounce):
\$436.25-437.75 (E287.25-288.25)
Sovereigns (new):
\$99.5-100.5 (E65.5-66.25)
Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interim Bath and Portland (amended), BBA, Bensons Crisps, Blue Circle Inds., Britoil, BSR, Carpets Int., Greenwich Cable Communications, Highlands and Lowlands, House Property Co. of London, Lec Refrigeration, Needlers, Refuge Assurance, Scottish Agricultural, Scottish Inv. Trst. (third quarter), Yorkshire Chemicals.
Finnish Dale Electrical, Hampton Tst., Immediate Business Systems, Moran Tea Holdings, New Dairies Oil Tst., J Daville Gordon, Zambia Copper.
Economic statistics: Over-time and short-term working (June), Energy trends (June), Unemployment and unfilled vacancies (July-final), Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (July-Provisional), Employment in the production industries (June-Provisional).

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Delmar Group, Manor Royal, Crawley, W. Sussex (10.00)
Electric & General Investment, 26 Finsbury Square, EC2 (12.30)
Gordon & Gotch, New Gotch House, 32-38 Scrutton Street, EC2 (10.30)
Hazelwood Foods, Empire Works, Rowditch, Derby (noon)
James Latham, Lakeside Wharf, Clapton, E5 (2.30)
F. H. Lloyd, Albany Hotel, Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham (noon)
London & Manchester Securities, Britannia Hotel, W1 (10.00)
A. Monk & Co., Green Lane, Padgate, Warrington (3.00)
Ocean Wilsons (Holdings), Great Eastern Hotel, EC2 (3.00)
Tops Estates, Angel Hotel, Bury St Edmunds (noon)
Whittington Engineering, South Street North, New Whittington, Chesterfield, Derbyshire (noon)
John Brown is in urgent need of a capital reconstruction now that the proposed deal with Hawker Siddeley is off. But banks and institutions are fairly disenchanted with recent events and seem to be uncertain about which way to turn as John Brown's management.

Changes to accounts pave way for part-privatization

British Nuclear Fuels sell-off in sight, says chairman

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

British Nuclear Fuels, the state-owned nuclear waste reprocessing and fuel enrichment company, could be a candidate for partial privatization in two years, Mr Con Alday, the chairman, said yesterday.

Speaking after BNFL had announced a £20.1m increase in pretax profits, Mr Alday said that the company's directors were in favour of the introduction of private capital into the company's operations - and this was in sight for the first time.

Although an Act of Parliament requires the state to maintain a majority holding in BNFL, because of the sensitive nature of its nuclear activities, the Government is actively considering offering up to 49 per cent of the company to the private sector.

One long-standing obstacle to this course had been uncertainty about who would have to pick up the bill for decommissioning and other costs incurred on waste disposal contracts which BNFL inherited from other government agencies when it was incorporated in 1971.

This was resolved last month when Whitehall agreed to split the costs between the Ministry of Defence, the

Atomic Energy Authority and other bodies. As a result, for the first time BNFL's accounts have not been qualified by its accountants.

"As a board of directors we would welcome the introduction of private capital," Mr Alday said. "I would hope that in a year or two we would be in a position for the Government to go ahead with it."

The report and accounts show that, while BNFL still has substantial debt and deferred liabilities on its balance sheet, the profitability of its business has been increasing sharply.

Last year it reported pretax profits of £54.6m, against £34.5m the year before. The profit was struck on sales of £457.5m. Dividend payments to the Government were trebled to £12m.

Exports were up by £24m to £19.5m, having doubled in the past three years. BNFL's work during the year was the average annual radiation exposure of its workers was less than 0.5 rem, less than a tenth of the regulatory limit. Despite this record, however, there was still a "determined vocal minority" opposed to the nuclear industry, which received disproportionate publicity and encouragement from the media.

Most of the orders come from Japan under a controversial but lucrative contract which figured largely in the Windscale public inquiry some years ago. Another £500m worth of orders are for fuel enrichment.

BNFL is planning to allocate about £3,500m for capital expenditure over the next decade, the bulk of it on the Sellafield reprocessing plant. Expenditure is expected to peak in 1986-7, Mr Alday said.

The company is planning to cut its workforce by 15 per cent from the peak manning levels envisaged two years ago in an effort to streamline operations. It had 15,700 employees at the end of March.

Mr Alday said in his chairman's statement that no serious nuclear incident or accident occurred in any of BNFL's works during the year. The average annual radiation exposure of its workers was less than 0.5 rem, less than a tenth of the regulatory limit. Despite this record, however, there was still a "determined vocal minority" opposed to the nuclear industry, which received disproportionate publicity and encouragement from the media.

The balance sheet shows BNFL had £145m of shareholders' funds against debts of £252.7m, deferred liabilities of £327.7m and government grants (treated as credits) of £39.1m.

In the past Whitehall has taken the view that, even if the political will was there, the problem of capital structure and the pre-1971 liabilities would push BNFL down the list of privatization candidates.

But with the Chancellor committed to stepping up the tempo of his privatization programme, BNFL might now come into the running.

If a business as sensitive as this could have private sector capital injected, there would scarcely be any part of the productive public sector immune from the possibility of privatization.

The Royal Ordnance factories have already been earmarked and there are signs that the experience of the past few years has convinced ministers that they must take a more determined approach to apparently difficult problems if they are to achieve faster progress in moving businesses to the private sector.

Lessons of oil, Page 17

New talks open on \$90bn Brazil debt

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Brazil's bankers began key talks in New York yesterday aimed at finding a solution to the worsening liquidity problems of the world's biggest debtor. The country owes an estimated \$90bn (£59bn).

Members of the advisory group of banks handling Brazil's rescue were expected to discuss its huge cash requirements for the rest of this year and 1984.

Estimates range up to about \$10bn and commercial banks are likely to demand participation from the international agencies and governments to help meet this shortfall.

Bankers are also expected to discuss whether to release the next tranche of a \$4.4bn commercial bank loan to Brazil before the International Monetary Fund gives formal approval to a new economic programme for the country.

Only \$2.5bn has been disbursed so far and the rest has been blocked until Brazil is once again in favour with the IMF and able to draw more IMF loans.

However, with Brazil's arrears now put at \$2bn and rising, there seems to be growing support for release of further commercial bank loans if the IMF signals informally that it approves.

New York banking sources said yesterday that it would be in the interests of banks to release more of the \$4.4bn because it would be used to repay some of the earlier \$1.2bn bridging loan and could also be used to reduce outstanding arrears.

Brazil is believed to be close to agreement with the IMF, although the IMF's managing director, M Jacques de Larosiere, is believed to have still not given approval to a new letter of intent from the Brazilians.

Mexico has now finished repaying a \$925m bridging loan to the Bank for International Settlements and a similar amount of bridging finance from the US Treasury. It is shortly to sign an agreement rescheduling \$20bn of government loans.



Smith: "We need to know what caused the breakdown"

JBE talks failure worries MP

By Our Financial Staff

The Labour Party's energy spokesman wants the Government to take an interest in the future of John Brown Engineering after the announcement that the proposed £30m sale of the company to Hawker Siddeley has fallen through.

Mr John Smith, MP for Monkland East said: "I think we need to know what caused the breakdown to break down. Mr John Brown is losing faith that I think the Government should get involved rather than see the firm go under."

Failure of the talks has caused fears for 1,700 jobs at JBE's Clydebank works. A meeting is planned tomorrow between shop stewards and management to discuss the future of the business.

The AUEW, the main union involved, said yesterday that workers were frustrated at being kept in the dark and were concerned for the future of the plant.

John Brown said the talks with Hawker Siddeley had broken down because of a failure to agree on a future direction for JBE. A spokesman said: "We are extremely disappointed, but JBE continues to be a profitable enterprise and we are confident that it has a rosy future. Although money from the sale would have helped to offset debts, John Brown will continue to benefit from JBE's profits."

He said some redundancies would probably be necessary because of a slowdown of work on the 21 Soviet turbines.

London Brick opts out of Istock bid

By Jeremy Warner

London Brick has decided not to renew its bid for the smaller brickmaker, Istock, Johnstone, of Leicester, despite clearance from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission last week.

The company made its decision after having a £52m offer turned down by the Istock directors, it emerged yesterday.

London Brick approached Istock chairman, Mr Paul Hyde-Thomson, at the end of last week with a bid of two shares and at least 15p in cash for every one Istock share.

This would have put a value of over 180p on each Istock share. The London Brick chairman, Mr Jeremy Rowe, had described Istock only days previously as looking "expensive" at 160p a share.

Mr Hyde-Thomson and two other Istock directors were also offered positions on the London Brick board as part of the total offer, which was dependent on confirmation that Istock's 1983 profits would exceed £1m.

But Istock, which has experienced a dramatic change in trading fortunes since agreeing last December to a bid worth £28m from London Brick, thought the new terms were unacceptable. It was not prepared to negotiate further on the possibility of raising slightly the cash element in the new offer.

Mr Rowe said last night: "We went as high as our new offer was prudent. We decided not to indulge in a contested bid because we would not have got the type of merger we had been looking for last December."

Investors Notebook, page 16

Boots set for US trading

By Jonathan Clark

Boots is poised to become the latest British company to be traded in the US in the form of American Depositary Receipts (ADRs).

A small market has been created by Irving Trust and Citibank but Morgan Guaranty, the biggest issuer of ADRs with about half the total market, has decided to deal in Boots ADRs.

The receipts are bought by investors from banks which hold the actual shares. Values fluctuate in line with the shares. The main advantage is that ADRs avoid stamp duty.

Morgan is believed to have been attracted by the market created by the other two banks and analysts believe that its interest marks the beginning of a greater US interest in Boots.

So far, all US buying of Boots has been direct.

BPCC may clinch £18m bid today

By Andrew Cornelius

Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman of the British Printing & Communication Corporation, hopes to announce today that he has clinched the £18m takeover of John Waddington, the Monopoly games company.

Last night he said that he was confident that BPCC would be able to make its offer unconditional today. Yesterday BPCC extended its offer terms 13 BPCC shares for every five Waddington shares until tomorrow afternoon.

At the same time Mr Maxwell said that BPCC had won acceptance from a further 1.5 per cent of Waddington shareholders to take BPCC's holdings and acceptance to 47.3 per cent of the John Waddington equity.

In the stock market, heavy after-hours trading in Waddington shares was reported. The price rose 17p to 261p on the day. Large institutional shareholders of Waddington also reported keen interest in their holdings from buyers prepared to pay up to 280p per share.

Mr Victor Watson, chairman of Waddington, is still adamant that the BPCC bid would fail.

Dow Jones recovers after slide

New York (AP - Dow Jones)

Stocks recovered again yesterday after slipping back to lower territory. An earlier recovery attempt failed to make much headway.

The Dow Jones Industrial averages was up almost 2 points. It had overcome a lower start.

Declines continued to lead advances with the margin at about 7-to-5. Trading was moderate.

Dupont was 51 1/4, up 1/4; Allied Corp 50 1/8, off 3/8; International Business Machines 118 5/8, off 7/8; General Motors 67 3/8, up 3/8; Aluminia Co. of America off 3/8; Westinghouse 42 1/2, up 5/8; Exxon 38 1/4, off 1/8; and Lockheed 109 1/8, down 2 7/8.

Telephone was up 1 1/8, at 149 3/4; Colson up 1 1/4, to 37 1/4; American Cyanamid off 1/4, at 53 3/4.

WALL STREET

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Unit trust sales beat record

By Laura Bowles

Booming stock markets have encouraged investors to put money into unit trusts in a big way with more units sold during the first seven months of this year than during the whole of 1982 - itself a record year.

Sales of unit trusts to the end of July, 1983, totalled £1,336m compared with £1,158m for the whole of 1982.

North America and the Far East have proved popular with investors. North American had gross sales of £214m during the seven months, and the Far East sales of £269m.

The value of funds under management also climbed dramatically - partly as a result of booming share prices but also reflecting the big net inflow of funds from new investors.

Funds under management rose from little more than £6,000m in June, 1982, to nearly £10,500m by June, 1983.

Net sales of units for July were £115m.

Norcross bid puts high value on UBM

By Our Financial Staff

Norcross yesterday unfavourably compared UBM's recent profits record with its own in its offer document for the builders' merchant company for which it has made a £64m bid.

Mr Ken Roberts, Norcross's chairman, says that his bid gives UBM shareholders a 34 per cent increase in the value of their shares compared with the price before bid speculations led to a jump in the price. Norcross's offer price, equivalent to about 106p a share, represents an exit price earnings ratio of over 50. The price is the highest for 10 years, adds Mr Roberts.

Mr Roberts says that Norcross's return on capital is more than 23 per cent against less than 11 per cent for UBM and the return on sales is over 7 per cent and less than 2 per cent respectively. But UBM is likely to point out in its defence document that the historic figures are meaning less because it is already well on the way to recovery.

Norcross acknowledges that UBM will make £8m to £10m this year but says the improvement is built into the offer price.

UBM's share price yesterday was down 1p at 119p but still well above Norcross's offer price. The market expects either a higher offer from Norcross or a counter bid.

Victor of takeover battle starts selling assets

BTR puts Tilling HQ up for sale

By Philip Robinson

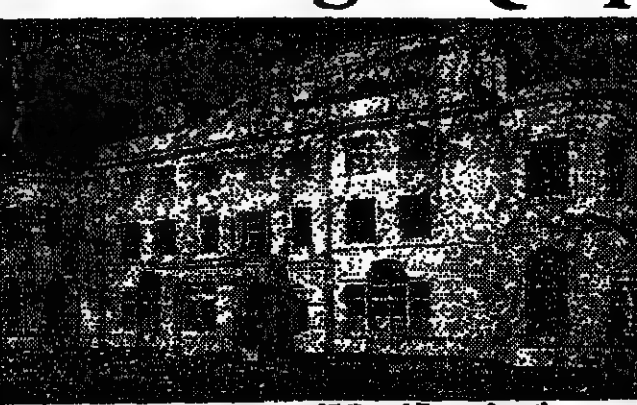
BTR, the engineering conglomerate which won a £660m takeover battle for Thomas Tilling group two months ago, has begun to sell the group's assets.

It has put Crewe House, Tilling's eighteenth century former headquarters in Mayfair, up for sale. BTR, which operates from a small office in Westminster, is believed to want £50m for the luxurious surroundings in which Tilling decisions were once taken, and the defence of the company prepared.

Crewe House was built in 1708 by Edward Shepherd who gave his name to the nearby Shepherd Market. The house took its name from the Marquis of Crewe, the Liberal politician who bought it in 1899.

It was the scene of many Liberal Party and society functions in the early 1900s and was occupied by the Department of Propaganda in Enemy Countries during the First World War. After his appointment as British Ambassador in France, the Marquis of Crewe returned to the house until Tilling bought it in 1937.

In the early 1960s the rear of the house was converted into offices and flats, but it was the company's policy to preserve the facade and character of the original building.



Crewe House, scene of Liberal Party functions

Despite its special features, leading West End estate agents are already doubting the price demanded by Mr Owen Green, BTR's managing director who has a reputation for getting what he wants.

Crewe House is on the market at the wrong time. Even at the best rents of £20 per sq ft the 40,000 sq ft building would be unlikely to fetch more than £16m and £20m, estate agents said.

Mr Green was unavailable for comment last night. The sale of Crewe House is the first public asset sale since the group gained control in an acrimonious battle this year.

For the past two months BTR directors have been travelling the world examining other Tilling assets. The conglomerate is widely known for its Cornhill Insurance, Pretty Polly Tights and Heintemann Publishing businesses.

City Editor's Comment

Britain's problem of baton-passing

It is one of the oldest clichés in the Treasury's canon that not too much should be read into 1 month's trade figures. The same applies to a lesser extent to a single quarter. But without extrapolating trends to awful conclusions, the weakness of British exports and the strength of imports does point up the forecasters' current dilemma - whether the UK economy will be able to sustain its recovery.

The figures clearly reflect Britain's early start in the European recovery league, spurred by consumer boom at least until the summer. It is far more problematical to conclude that British manufacturers have been slow to respond, that they might be so preoccupied with cutting back to achieve statistical productivity gains that they are not really interested in banking on growth. Yet that is the crux of the recovery question.

As the latest commentary from Glasgow's Fraser of Allander Institute points out, the two main engines of our upturn so far - consumer spending and rebuilding of stocks - "have already probably made the bulk of their contribution to the present recovery". We might even add house purchase to that list.

The consumer boom will peter out because inflation is beginning to catch up with earnings and squeeze real disposable incomes and because the savings ratio seems likely to stop falling. Stocks have now come back to their conventional relationship with output.

Soon we shall be looking for that mysterious transition from cyclical recovery into sustained growth - a process particularly mysterious in Britain because it has so often failed to take place. This is usually seen as industry taking up the baton, using its competitive edge to sell more exports and its enhanced profits and prospects to invest in expansion.

The National Institute's latest pronouncements stick to their view that, sadly, this will not happen. Logically, therefore, they point to growth falling back from this year's likely 2.5 per cent in 1984. Although now seen as subversive demand economists, the National Institute are far from alone in this gloomy prognosis, which can be had from a number of impeccably money conscious city economists.

But precedents can change. It is, after all almost unheard of for Britain to lead anyone in economic recovery, even at a much more modest level than the Americans are now achieving. It is also unusual for British firms to be becoming more competitive at this stage and for there to be three million unemployed, removing one of the usual blocks on expansion.

Therefore, there is every reason to think that British firms, despite their poor performance over the past few months, will actually be able to exploit growing export opportunities as the world economy continues to recover for some time ahead.

In the past, the financial cycle has often cut short British recoveries, aided and aggravated by sterling and trade weaknesses. Today, the financial cycle cannot be taken for granted. Confidence, particularly for firms to invest, has undoubtedly been held back in recent months by the genuine fears and predictions that the collision of US budget deficits and money supply targets would inevitably raise interest rates.

But more recent developments from Washington, especially on money supply, suggested that interest rates could go either way. Also, there is undoubtedly a big hangover from the long period of inflation in the current level of real interest rates.

This is not to say that there may not be some relative cyclical downturn next year or in 1985, but it would be cruel to hard-won business confidence to confuse such, possibly minor, short-term cycles with the longer process of recovery. We should not forget the pattern of the thirties, when setbacks punctuated sustained growth amid continuing high unemployment levels.

Memcom International Holdings Plc

(Registered in England No. 1731539)

Offer for Sale of

1,920,000 Ordinary shares of 10p each at 81p per share

by AFCOR INVESTMENTS LIMITED

SHARE CAPITAL

Authorised	Issued and to be issued fully paid
£1,000,000	£465,000
in 10,000,000 Ordinary shares of 10p each	

465,000 of the authorised but unissued Ordinary shares of the Company have been reserved for issue on the exercise of warrants and options outstanding.

The Directors are aware that firm applications will be made for 600,000 Ordinary shares which will be allotted in full.

Memcom is now one of the leading companies capable of designing, supplying, implementing and servicing Electronic Filing Systems, a key area in the development of integrated office automation systems. Memcom's services range from providing advice on a consultancy basis to managing turn-key projects. Memcom is also a supplier of equipment and of proprietary software programmes.

As a result of new signed contracts awarded to the Group, many in the Middle East, and the consequently increased size of its current orders, the Group requires working capital substantially in excess of that presently available to it and an enlarged equity base which is the reason for this issue.

The Directors consider that, taking into account the net proceeds of this issue, which are estimated to amount to £1.3 million, the Group will have sufficient working capital for its present requirements.

It is the Directors' present intention to seek permission for the Company's shares to be dealt in on the Unlisted Securities Market in six to twelve months time. In the meantime, the Company's shares will be traded on an over-the-counter market conducted by Afcor and other companies licensed to deal in securities.

For the year ending 30 April, 1984, profits before taxation are forecast at not less than £510,000 and earnings per Ordinary share at 6.30p. On a forecast dividend of 3.00p, the gross yield at the Offer price of 81p is 5.3%.

Copies of the Offer for Sale Document (on the terms of which alone applications will be considered) may be obtained from:

Afcor Investments Limited, Licensed Dealer in Securities, 20 Southampton Place, London WC1A 2BQ	Bank of Scotland, New Issue Department, 3rd Floor, Broad Street House, 55 Old Broad Street, London EC2P 2HL
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Floyd seeks £3m of new capital

By Jeremy Warner

Floyd Oil Participations called on shareholders yesterday for just over £3m of new capital by offering a rights issue of new shares at 82p each on the basis of two for every seven.

It is the third time in four years that the group, the shares of which are traded on the unlisted securities market, has asked shareholders for more money. The shares fell 10p to 93p after the news.

Floyd wants the money to help with onshore exploration and development. It said the programme would require more funds in the next two years to carry out seismic surveys and drilling for evaluation of its East Midland and Wash licence interests.

Development and exploration wells on licensed areas are to be drilled before the end of the year and more are planned in the next three years.

Floyd was originally formed to invest in low risk wells in Canada and the United States but over three years ago it bought into onshore interests in the East Midlands.

The company estimates that pretax profits in the year to the end of last June were not less than £55,000. The year before the group made nearly £100,000.

APPOINTMENTS

Guinness Peat Property Services Sir Robert Lawrence, part-time member of British Railways Board and chairman of British Rail Property Board, has joined the board.

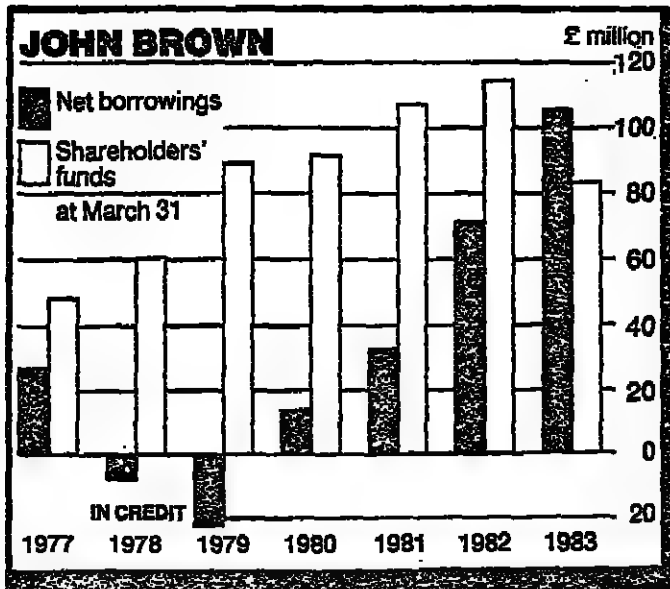
Barclays Bank UK: Mr Don Lonsdale, assistant general manager (staff), will be a deputy divisional general manager of the Management Services Department from December 5. Mr Dick Peters, formerly an assistant general manager, Management Services Department, has been appointed a deputy divisional general manager. Mr Fred Winup, formerly head of development, Management Services Department, has been made assistant general manager (development).

Wimpey Homes Holdings: Mr John Campbell has become sales and marketing director.

County Bank: Mr Charles Wilks, who has been chief executive since January, will be replaced by Mr W. E. Norton (Holdings). Mr W. E. Norton (Holdings) has been appointed a director.

Stirling Group: Mr R. M. Wignall, Mr L. S. Snyder and Mr E. C. Tait have been appointed directors of Stirling Group, not of W. E. Norton (Holdings).

John Brown's future grows bleaker



It is the future looked as if it would be bleak after John Brown's sale of its gas turbine division, it looks noticeably worse now that the proposed sale of the division to Hawker Siddeley has been called off.

For a start, the sale would have lopped £30m from company borrowings which stand at £105m. But, perhaps more significantly, the sale would have marked the beginning of the change in long-term strategy at the troubled engineering company such a change is needed to inspire confidence among institutional shareholders who may yet be called on to help organize a much-needed capital reconstruction.

Last night, there was no indication that the Bank of England was about to arrange such a reconstruction, despite strong City rumours.

And at the Prudential, which holds about 9 per cent of the John Brown equity, the word was that there would be little enthusiasm for such a reconstruction at a company where shareholders' funds stand at £33m but where the market capitalization is a trifling £30m.

Within the market, dealers were taking the same view, having lost interest in trading John Brown shares for regular clients until the company's future is sorted out one way or another.

Given this outlook, Sir John Cuckney, who replaced Sir John Mayhew-Sanders as chairman last month, has his work cut out to take the company forward.

When Sir John announced that the Hawker deal was off, he bravely indicated that he was not discouraged that the two companies had failed to agree.

He said that the gas turbine division - John Brown Engineering should double last year's trading profits in the current year and double profits again the year after.

In the short term, he said, the breakdown of the deal has a marginally beneficial effect on the group's balance sheet.

However, in the longer-term, the failure to conclude a deal with Hawker throws into jeopardy Sir John's plan to create a slimmer group based around its construction engineering businesses. With Hawker Siddeley out of the running for the gas turbine division, and NEI and GEC showing no inclination to become involved in the bidding, he will have to think again.

That will leave much of the City, not to mention Whitehall, thinking too.

Intl Thomson Organisation

International Thomson Organisation
Half-year to 30.6.83
Net profit £26.8m (£16.5m)
Stated earnings 19.1p (£11.8p)
Turnover £87.0m (£80.2m)
Share price 620p

To find one's business areas growing simultaneously is a good fortune allowed to few companies, but the International Thomson Organisation is one of them. The increase in net profits was markedly higher than anticipated and holds out the promise of the company making £65m for the full year against £51.5m in 1982.

Oil and gas benefited from the strength of the dollar and from slightly higher output from the Piper and Claymore fields in which it has 20 per cent. At the operating level last year hydrocarbons brought in the overwhelming level bulk of profits.

Much, therefore, depends on the success of the expansion into the second business area, American publishing. Trading profit there is running well ahead of last year, but the true position is disguised by the skill with which Thomson employs the accelerated depreciation provisions. These are running ahead of the £12.5m spent last year. In Britain, progress with the regional papers still suffering from the downturn in advertising, is slow.

The Thomson strategy of appearing to cut holiday prices at the beginning of the season has paid off. Bookings are higher and the airline is flying with higher capacity utilization.

City analysts will get a lesson in football club tactics next month. Thirty have been invited to the White Hart Lane ground of Tottenham Hotspur to discover how a football club is run a month before the club's shares are expected to be floated on the Stock Exchange, the first time a football club's shares have been given a full listing. One disappointment for the visitors - they will meet the club's money men, but not its footballers.

£10.2m. Despite earlier private warnings that it would make no more than £18.5m for the year as a whole, one cannot rule out profits of £22m before taking account of the £2.5m profit on property sales than the company expects. This would be a distinct advance on the £15.3m made in the last full year.

Deliveries of fletton brick in the first half were up 10 per cent.

London Brick
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £10.2m (£7.5m)
Stated earnings 4.41p (£3.71p)
Turnover £73.4m (£68.5m)
Net interim dividend 1.268p (0.9755p)
Share price 85.5p up 2p Yield 4.6%

Production is now running at more than 10 per cent higher than in 1982, with higher levels expected.

These figures suggest that slowly but surely London Brick is putting its house in order. It has decentralised its management and subsidiary structure and its return on capital and sales seems to be improving almost daily.

Unfortunately, all this has been somewhat marred by the debacle with Istock Johnson, the Leicester brickmaker which London Brick has been trying to acquire for seven months. The company went through a lengthy and costly Monopolies Commission investigation.

London Brick first described Istock as "expensive" at 160p a share, and then offered 180p, only to be sent packing.

London Brick has some way to go, despite its undoubted progress, before ceasing to look vulnerable to a bid for itself.

London Brick

The City is not short of people who think London Brick should be doing a lot better than it is. But the half-year profits issued yesterday nevertheless look impressive. At the pretax level they are up 36 per cent

Fewer bad weather claims help Pearl

By Our Financial Staff

Fewer claims arising from bad weather in the first quarter helped Pearl Assurance to raise interim net profits from £5.24m to £7.01m.

The interim dividend has been raised by 25 per cent to 12p net and the company promises that the final will be at least as much as last year's 18p net.

The major change was the fall in the underwriting loss on general branch business from £5.64m to £3.65m. Investment income, by contrast, went up fractionally from £4.19m to £4.35m. In underwriting the significant improvement was on the British business, the loss on which declined to £2.69m from £4.74m. The loss on overseas underwriting and reinsurance rose slightly to £960,000.

Pearl Assurance
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £7.01m (loss) £5.24m
Net interim dividend 12p
Share price 702 Yield 6.1
Dividend payable 7.10.83

The stockholders' proportion of the surplus on the life business increased from £4.96m to £6.27m, but since no new actual valuation is made for the first half the figures should not be taken as a guide for the whole year.

Premium income on the industrial branch life business accruing to the parent company was £78.5m compared with £72.5m for the same period last year. New premiums are running at an annual rate of £15m, up from £13.7m.

Hawley earnings surge to £5.1m

By Jonathan Clare

The expected jump in half-time profits from Hawley Group, the last of a stream of figures from Mr Michael Ashcroft's companies this week, turned up on cue yesterday.

After the rise in profits from £1.7m to £5.1m, the City now expects Hawley to make about £13.5m for the year.

The shares lost 10p to 175p yesterday as investors took profits after the recent rise in the share price. This gives the group a market capitalization of £9.3m.

Hawley has spent more than £60m in the United States, particularly on the security side where Electro-Protective is the main business. About half its total profits are now earned there.

Yesterday, Mr Ashcroft and an old acquaintance, Mr David Wickens, of British Car Auctions, each bought 404,000 shares in ID & Rivlin. The company has a small fitted bathroom business which might fit with Hawley's fitted bedroom business.

Hawley Group
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £5.1m (£1.7m)
Stated earnings 5.2p (2.3p)
Turnover £51.4m (£16.5m)
Net interim dividend 1.32p (1.2p)
Share price 175p down 10p
Dividend payable 6.1.84

David Crouch figures slide to new low

Half year pretax profits reported yesterday by Derek Crouch, the open cast mining and construction company, fell to a new low of £177,000, compared with last year's first half of £414,000.

Profits have been on the slide since 1980 when the group produced full year figures of nearly £3m.

The interim dividend is being held at 1.63p. The shares were down 8p to 68p - down from a peak of 225p in 1981.

Mr Derek Crouch, chairman, said the company's construction side was looking for more private work to reduce dependence on public sector contracts.

"There are a number of substantial claims outstanding on completed work, but these will not be included in the accounts until they are settled."

Derek Crouch
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £177,000 (£414,000)
Stated earnings 2.25p (1.68p)
Turnover £28.8m (£28.7m)
Net interim dividend 1.63p (1.63p)
Share price 68p
Yield 11.55%

This may take some time because the negotiating procedure is lengthy," Mr Crouch said.

Derek Crouch has taken complete control of Power Inc, which owns 20,000 acres of coal-bearing land in Pennsylvania by buying the 40 per cent interest held by two American fuel distribution firms for a nominal sum.

Turnover for the whole company was a shade up at £28.8m compared with £28.7m for the first six months of last year.

Problem division under control says Blagden

By Andrew Corneilios

Blagden Industries, the steel drums, plastics and chemicals manufacturing company, yesterday reported a 12.5 per cent increase in pretax profits to £1.2m in the six months to June 26. Mr Ronald Sparrow, chairman, said the group has improved contributions from all its mainstream businesses apart from the electroplating division, where management and quality problems led to losses of £239,000 at the interim stage compared with profits of £1,000 at the same stage last year.

However, he said that problems in this division are now under control and the losses will be at least halved in the second half of the year.

Elsewhere, improved profits came through from the drum and cask manufacturing div-

Blagden Industries
Half-year to 26.6.83
Pretax profit £1.2m (£1.06m)
Stated earnings 5.4p (4.3p)
Turnover £25.8m (£21.85m)
Net interim dividend 3.3p
Share price 106p down 2p
Dividend payable 3.10.83

Dividend up as Rotork profit slips

By Our Financial Staff

First half profits of the engineers Rotork slipped slightly to £1.57m, but a boosted interim dividend of 1.75p is being recommended to reduce disparity between the interim and arrival payments.

Last year, when the company made £1.58m, pretax profits, an interim dividend of 1.35p was declared, followed by a 2.15p final dividend.

Mr David Smith, finance director, said: "Life will be quite difficult in the second half if we match the first half we will be pleased." No increase in demand for the company's valve controls is forecast.

Turnover was up from £12.7m to £13.1m but tax payments of £820,000, and earnings per share of 3.6p remained constant.

Rotork
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £1.57m (£1.58m)
Stated earnings 3.6p (3.6p)
Turnover £13.1m (£12.7m)
Net interim dividend 1.75p
Share price 106p down 2p
Dividend payable 3.10.83

COMMODITIES

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		SUNAR	
Official barter figures.		174.50-74.00	
Prices in pounds per ton unless stated.		174.50-74.00	
Rubbish White & Co. Ltd. report		174.50-74.00	
COPPER HIGH GRADE		174.50-74.00	
Cash		174.50-74.00	
1-3 months		174.50-74.00	
STANDARD CATHODES		174.50-74.00	
Cash		174.50-74.00	
1-3 months		174.50-74.00	
TIN STANDARD		174.50-74.00	
Cash		174.50-74.00	
1-3 months		174.50-74.00	
ZINC HIGH GRADE		174.50-74.00	
Cash		174.50-74.00	
1-3 months		174.50-74.00	
LEAD		174.50-74.00	
Cash		174.50-74.00	
1-3 months		174.50-74.00	
NICKEL		174.50-74.00	
Cash		174.50-74.00	
1-3 months		174.50-74.00	
SILVER		174.50-74.00	
Cash		174.50-74.00	
1-3 months		174.50-74.00	
TIN		174.50-74.00	
Cash		174.50-74.00	
1-3 months		174.50-74.00	

WALL STREET

Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change
IBM	160 1/4	1/4	General Electric	40 1/4	1/4
AT&T	54 1/4	1/4	Westinghouse	26 1/4	1/4
IBM	160 1/4	1/4	General Electric	40 1/4	1/4
AT&T	54 1/4	1/4	Westinghouse	26 1/4	1/4
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AT&T	54 1/4	1/4	Westinghouse	26 1/4	1/4

Improved trading and performance reflected in substantial increase in interim dividend

Interim profits up by 36%

	6 months to 30 June '83	6 months to 30 June '82	year to 31 Dec '82
TURNOVER	73,405	69,344	137,456
OPERATING PROFIT	9,608	8,054	16,117
Interest Paid	230	968	1,657
Investment Income	9,378	7,086	14,460
	159	106	326
	9,537	7,192	14,786
Share of Profits of an Associated Company	613	266	542
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	10,150	7,458	15,328
Taxation: Group Companies	3,773	2,595	4,133
Associated Company	201	94	227
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION AND BEFORE EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS	6,176	4,769	10,968
Extraordinary Items	847	323	829
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO STOCKHOLDERS	5,329	4,446	10,139
EARNINGS PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT (Basic), adjusted for the 1:1 scrip issue	4.41p	3.71p	8.53p

Year to 31 December 1982 figures are an abridged version of the unaudited audited accounts which were delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

In the first half of 1983 profit before tax was 36% up on the equivalent period of 1982.

Demand for bricks produced by London Brick products is buoyant. Deliveries of Oxford Clay fletton bricks are ten per cent up on last year and the order book is strong. Since May production has been increased and is now running ten per cent ahead of 1982. Impressive results in our non-fletton range have also been achieved with Weald Clay stock bricks produced by the Company's new plant at Clockhouse in Surrey. The refurbished Arley Works designed to make Gault stock bricks has also come on stream.

The two other new operating companies created in last year's reorganisation have made an excellent start. London Brick Engineering have won a £5.5 million contract to design, build and commission a brickworks in Swaziland with a production of 50 million bricks per year. Work has begun on site and shipments of machinery manufactured by London Brick Engineering in the United Kingdom will commence next month. London Brick Property have successfully sold some 260 houses which were surplus to our requirements. The Proceeds of these sales will be received later in the year and the profit,

amounting to approximately £2.5 million, will form part of the trading profit at the end of the year. London Brick Landfill continues to expand its operations and is making an important contribution to overall profits. Croydex is also ahead, helped by a growth in exports. At Banbury Alton the sale of Homes and Gardens this spring included write offs which are shown as an extraordinary item in the interim figures.

The results have benefited from a full six-months profits from our associated company Brick and Pipe Industries of Australia, which continues to do well.

The Directors have declared an interim dividend of 1.268p (net) per Ordinary Stock Unit of 25p in respect of the year ending 31st December, 1983 (1982 0.9755p per Unit net). The dividend, which is adjusted for the Scrip issue, is 30 per cent up on that for 1982 and will be paid on 31st October, 1983, to members on the Ordinary Stock Register at 16th September, 1983.

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C. Hoare & Co 9 1/2 %
Lloyds Bank 9 1/2 %
Midland Bank 9 1/2 %
Nat Westminster 9 1/2 %
TSB 9 1/2 %
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For details contact
E. Morley H.R.E. Industrial
Development Officer,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool,
Telephone 0429 58522

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Privatization - 3: Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent, on problems facing the Government

Why rolling back the state frontiers is so tortuous

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor and former Energy Minister, has shown that political clout and determination can clear a path through the undergrowth. Yet selling off British Gas's oil assets has been a slow process with the opposition of the board and its chairman, Sir Denis Rooke, right.



take three or even four terms of office before the Government - despite the present stepping up of its privatization - can finally boast of success in its efforts (as it sees them) to bring the nationalized industries to book.

Ministers' experience in the last four years with their attempts to privatize BNOG and the British Gas corporation's oil assets has underlined that shifting from the public to the private sector is a long, complex and tortuous business, it is littered with technical,

legal and political obstacles as well as false leads and the occasional disruptive intervention external circumstances.

In BNOG's case, for example, it was the oil price rises and supply uncertainties of 1979, promoted by the Iranian revolution, that played a decisive role in persuading the Cabinet that it should keep the rump of BNOG as a state oil trading company.

It they had stuck to their original impulse to abolish BNOG altogether, selling its North Sea assets en bloc to BP,

few now doubt that they would have saved an enormous amount of time and trouble but at the time nobody could foresee the present conditions of oil glut, falling prices and Opec disarray.

In the event, it was not until last year that Mr Lawson was able to get his Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Act on the statute book, opening the way for the sale of Britoil and the British Gas North Sea assets. This was after ministers and officials had wasted months exploring alternative ways of privatizing the corporation, including the idea of a free hand out of BNOG bonds to all taxpayers.

As the same time it took nearly three years before officials finally found a way of sorting out the complex legal tangle of the participation agreements between BNOG and the oil companies, which were designed to give the state access to 51 per cent of all oil produced in the North Sea.

Unravelling them was a "Promethean task", according to Mr David Howell, Mr Lawson's predecessor as energy secretary, and a man whose indecisiveness is held by many to have contributed to the slow rate of progress.

With British Gas's oil assets, on top of similar legal and contractual problems, the Government has had to contend with the unstinting opposition of the corporation's board

to the sale of either Wyth Farm or the North Sea assets.

Chairman, Sir Denis Rooke has repeatedly denied that the corporation is employing delaying tactics - but it is evident, that as an unwilling seller it has not hurried things along.

This is one reason why the Department of Energy has adopted the otherwise unlikely tactic of setting up its own oil company to hold British Gas's North Sea assets. It wants to make sure that it controls the disposal itself rather than risk leaving it to the corporation.

In fact, opposition from state industry chairmen is one of the toughest obstacles the Government claims to have faced in its privatization campaign.

Even favoured chairmen such as Sir Michael Edwards at BL and Sir Robert Atkinson of British Shipbuilders have resisted attempts to sell off their profitable operations in favour of the long-term benefits of preserving integrated corporations - a perfectly understandable tactic that has nevertheless effectively delayed the privatization process.

The Government has retaliated not only by appointing sympathetic state industry chairmen such as Lord King at British Airways to hurry through the privatization process, but also (in the case of Sir Walter Marshall at the CEBG for example) by setting them clear and publicly stated objec-

tives of introducing private capital into their operations. How far this succeeds in clearing the logjam remains to be seen.

The legislative and technical hurdles also remain, especially now that the relatively easy privatization candidates - such as Cable & Wireless which was already operated as a Companies Act company - have, by common consent, mostly been returned to the private sector already.

'Unravelling oil pacts was a Promethean task'

While the Government has powers to dispose of parts of BL, British Shipbuilders, British Steel and Rolls-Royce (and is pushing its British Telecom bill through Parliament again), it has still to find time for bills to privatize its second rank candidates such as the National Bus Company, the Royal Ordnance Factories and the British Airports Authority.

The more radical long-term aims favoured by some right-wing ideologues such as breaking up the coal board and the

electricity industry are even further away.

According to one closely involved Whitehall official, the average lead time for preparing a corporation for privatization is between two and three years - and that is assuming it does not run into delay caused by general elections or political and technical mishaps.

The need to settle on a suitable capital structure can lead to protracted and bitter argument, as happened over Britoil, for example, while establishing suitable regulatory agencies for telecommunications or other natural monopolies such as gas and electricity can and does keep civil servants occupied for months.

In addition, the Government has to grapple with the market constraints of bringing a succession of large corporations to the stock market. Although the argument about crowding out is complex, it is clear that the British Telecom and British Airways issues will absorb more than half the funds investment institutions can spare for new equity investment over the next three to four years.

After Britoil and Amersham, ministers are acutely sensitive to the need to get the timing and pricing of issues right, although with the election out of the way this may be something that they can afford to treat with greater aplomb.

Despite these constraints, the Government is clearly confident that it will be able to push through an accelerated programme of privatization in the next five years.

Apart from being four years further down the "learning curve", Mr Lawson's experience with Britoil has shown - notwithstanding the peculiarities of the sprawling state oil asset portfolio - that political clout and determination can clear a path through the undergrowth.

Rightwing advocates of further plentiful doses of privatization continue to complain about the institutional obstacles to radical change, particularly in the Civil Service.

The Institute of Directors, for example, was exercised two years ago by the fact that privatization, while popular with the world at large, being held up by a few key enemies in key places.

They are concentrated not only in the Labour Party and among trade union officials but also at the "Yes Minister" level of the Civil Service and in the media, where they have an influence out of proportion to their numbers, claimed an internal memo. Even the facts, it seems, conspire.

Financial notebook

Identity crisis of index-linked gilts

A secure, long-term investment is all very well and good for those seeking such protection, but for market operators interested primarily in a quick return the attraction will be rather less. So it is with index-linked gilts. Their performance over the two years since they were launched has prompted the abundant City cynics to suggest that the absence of a bull market to date sustains the absence of one in the future. Index-linking is dismissed as a failure.

Leaving aside for the moment the long-term argument, it must be true that a market which has not generated significant profits for traders is also likely to be a market which has won few friends among genuine investors. Last year, of course, was an anomalous mirage in the conventional gilts market, where there was enough to have bought long dated issues at the beginning of the year made a 50 per cent profit.

Index-linked gilts, by contrast, have languished since Sir Geoffrey Howe extended their favours to the populace at large in his 1982 Budget. The falling interest rates and declining inflation which estimated the conventional market were bad for stocks while raising a defence against inflationary ravages. It has not been, therefore, the fault of index-linking as such that profits in that market have been scarce.

But it does not follow that profits will always be hard to make in the index-linked market. Attention is frequently directed towards nominal interest rates, but that begs the question of how the market sees index-linked stock. Should an index-linked security be regarded as a taxed interest stock, or should it be compared with other investments which are supposed to retain their real capital value (property and gold are cited, somewhat dubiously)?

Obviously, index-linked gilts have qualities which set them apart from conventional government stock. Not only is the real value of the capital guaranteed, but the interest rate is real in the extent that it is tied to the inflation-adjusted capital value of the bond. What matters, however, is the implication that a real gilt return should be compared

with real interest rates, expressed as the long term nominal interest rate minus anticipated inflation.

Such rates, it can be argued, reflect the course of the real economy, whereas the nominal interest rates which set conventional gilt prices are chiefly at the moment a response to monetary phenomena. On the evidence of the past few months real long term interest rates are drifting upwards. The circle is completed by the almost obsessive concern demonstrated by markets round the world for the state of the American money supply and Federal budget. A rise in nominal interest rates was expected for months and that specifically would be bad for all fixed interest securities. But what is important for index-linked securities is the relationship between the real long term interest rates and the redemption yield offered by the stock.

On the assumption of inflation running at 7 per cent redemption yields on the nine index-linked stocks in issue range from around 4 per cent for the 2 per cent L.L. 1988 to 3 per cent for the 2½ per cent L.L. 2016 yields on stocks due for redemption at the turn of the century are around £3.25. All other things being equal, the price of index-linked stock should start to go up when real long term interest rates fall towards these yields.

The catch, however, is that real rates may be declining because nominal rates are also on the way down, in which case conventional gilt prices could rise with index-linked prices.

But there are two major differences: nominal rates and real rates will not move with equal speed if they are not responding to the same impulses; and index-linked gilts have shown themselves in their brief history to be much more volatile.

A bull market in index-linked stocks is, therefore, possible, but the complexities are such that the genuine long term investor might do as well to sit tight. Index-linked gilts are certainly gilt-edged in the sense that the capital is guaranteed by the Government, but in other respects they behave rather differently.

Michael Prest

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HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development

How to run your own show — buy out the boss

Starting your own business has been in vogue for the last few years. The idea is fine in theory, but putting it into practice is exceptionally demanding. Both financially, and psychologically, especially if you are already well established in a company in a senior position. A number of would-be bosses have no product or service to sell, but this does not necessarily mean having to abandon the idea. It is possible to be your own employer by taking slightly fewer risks and buying out the company that currently employs you — in other words affecting a "management buy-out".

Management buy-outs usually involve the purchase of an existing company by several of its senior management staff. The average cost is around £250,000 but it is possible to buy out smaller companies for as little as £50,000. Obviously financial backing will be needed, but as the company already has a track record it may be easier to attract capital than when starting up a new venture.

Corinne Julius on one way of becoming your own employer

financial and sales directors and often the production manager. There are normally two or three prime movers, with perhaps the backing of up to six other colleagues. Having looked it through you will need financial advice.

A favourite source of financial advice is ICFC, the world's largest source of private venture capital, with 18 area offices around the UK. However, there are other sources, such as merchant banks, or perhaps advice from the specialist section of your own bank. Whoever you approach will try to arrange a meeting as soon as possible to try to establish an estimate of the price of the company you wish to buy based on assets, turnover and profitability. In the long run the cost of the buy out may preclude its achievement, despite the company's viability.

After an initial chat, ICFC, for example, would recommend you consult first class accountants and solicitors (not existing company or personal advisers) who have experience of buy outs. The solicitors' role is often to act as intermediary by approaching the company on behalf of an unnamed potential purchaser to see whether it really is for sale.

At the same time a business plan has to be prepared to put before potential backers. It should include information on the company, the customers, suppliers, management structure and financial information, although the latter is often not available in great detail, and forecasts for profit and cash-flow.

The buyer will want to know why the company is for sale and you as an

well as working out ways to make the deal attractive to the vendor, your banker should help you to negotiate on matters that will affect the long-term future of the company and the ease with which it can be run. For example, it would be wise to arrange for the existing owners to be responsible for any redundancies necessary before you take over.

Deals on management buy outs can go through in as little as two days with a willing vendor, but the average is around six months. Of course it isn't quite so simple: there are problems. Firstly if you make an approach that is unsuccessful your boss or owners may consider you as thoroughly disloyal and make your working life rather unpleasant. During negotiation many managers find it difficult to confront their former boss or employer across the table and may have difficulty in getting the best deal.

If your negotiations are successful, the pressure is just starting. Previously you may have had extended back-up but now the decisions are yours and yours alone. This often makes managers more cautious: it is their money that is on the line. The main difference that the buy out is going to make to you is how you do your job. It can of course mean

The pressure is on

greater satisfaction, but it also means greater worry and tension about the results of your decisions.

Your new role can also affect working relationships, although buy outs there has tended to be a honeymoon period of up to 12 months between staff and management, by which time you should have gained your confidence. It may take time to sort out the roles in your management team. ICFC have found that the management team tends to undergo a reorganisation in its power and authority structure during the purchasing negotiations.

Some of the biggest tensions can come from your family. They may have become used to a certain lifestyle and status. For them the change can be traumatic, so it is essential to discuss all the implications of the deal with them from the start. After all, if you are worrying about the effect of your decisions on your children's education, it is going to distract you from the business decisions that you have to make.

On a personal level both the financial and psychological rewards of running your own show are great, and the success rate of management buy outs is high and more than justifies the pressures involved in trying to be your own boss.

Lurking skeletons

existing manager will usually have a good idea of whether there are any skeletons lurking in the cupboard. If the project seems viable your backers are likely to continue. You and your colleagues will have to put in some cash, often by getting a second mortgage on your home or by persuading other members of your family to lend you the money. A typical buy out would give the buyer up to 20 per cent equity for providing 80 per cent of the finance. In your planning you have to sort out the right capital base on the right terms, to avoid later complications such as under capitalisation.

The buyer should help you develop a strategy and a detailed plan of how to approach the vendor. As

Ripe to buy

There are generally three types of company susceptible to a buy out. Firstly there is the family company, run by a group of professional managers for several years while members of the family have held non-executive positions, or where the family members are getting too old to carry on. The owners may want the company name to continue and rather than sell to competitors or fold up they would be happy to sell to their managers — people they trust — and may be willing to sell out for less than the market value.

The second type of company ripe for a management buy out is the subsidiary that was bought as part of a merger between two large groups and which does not fit into the new holding company strategy for development. The third kind is the company about to go into liquidation, which its own management knows is viable in part if not as a whole.

So, what are the steps to take in being your own boss? After having thought about the viability of buying out a company and making it a success, consider the pressure on yourself and your family. You should then sound out in confidence one or two senior colleagues whom you respect, before attempting to get financial backing. The management team you choose will have to be capable of running the company without extensive external back-up.

The problem is to get as much support and encouragement from colleagues as possible without making the moves too openly. Buy out teams usually include the managing,

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